HISTORICAL OVERVIEW
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

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Joan Brandoff-Kerr, Lands and Engineering Officer on the Santa Barbara Ranger District, spent two days providing information about the Monterey Ranger District to help fill in the gaps with regard to the Forest's northern sector. Although her other responsibilities kept Joan from doing actual research and providing written text, her long experience as the Monterey District Archeologist and her commendable memory saved the overview from being totally lacking in its representation of the Monterey District and the old Monterey National Forest. Much of the information about the Monterey area included in this document is my recap of Joan's recollections.

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Karen Barnette
Forest Archeologist

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Objectives

There are many noble reasons for preparing an historical overview for a National Forest. These involve preserving evidence and knowledge of the past, learning its lessons, and using the information gained to plan for the future. All apply to Los Padres National Forest, but the immediate impetus for this document is the need to incorporate historical data into planning future management.

All Forests in the National Forest System are required to complete 50-year Land and Resource Management Plans as a result of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (1974), as amended by the National Forest Management Act (1976). The direction for preparing planning documents includes a requirement that each Forest Plan be accompanied by an overview of the Forest's cultural resources.

In the Los Padres' case, overview documents covering prehistoric cultural resources and Native American concerns were in place as completion of the Forest Plan neared in early 1984. Some were prepared to fulfill Forest planning requirements, while others were either coincidental or related to other planning projects. There was an obvious gap in the area of history, since the only previous description of Forest history had been prepared by William S. Brown in 1945. (43)

Several elements of an overview of Forest history and the Forest's historical resources already existed. These included a computerized inventory of the archival document and photograph collections housed in the Forest Research Archives, Brown's document chronicling events prior to 1945, and the Forest oral history archives of approximately 80 taped interviews. Two areas of information were specifically lacking; first, descriptive data concerning the period from 1945 to the present, and second, a summary and general assessment of changes in land use and land use management during the historic era that could be useful in planning future management. In addition, many of the subjects touched on by Brown deserved more attention.

The Forest chose to prepare an overview that would supplement Brown's description of early Forest history and extend it to the present, as well as provide a general assessment of historical trends in land use and land use management. There were several additional, specific objectives, including: accomplish as complete an overview as possible with limited funds; prepare a readable document, which could be enjoyed by the lay reader as well as used for management purposes; and identify areas where original research is needed, or where so much information exists that a separate thematic study is warranted.

1.2 Methods

The best way to accomplish these objectives seemed to be through use of local knowledge and existing archival material. The Forest contracted with local naturalist and backcountry historian E. R. (Jim) Blakley to do the groundwork for the historical overview. Jim was able to work primarily from his own extensive historical and bibliographic files relating to the Forest (the Blakley Archives), while also using materials made available by individuals in the Los Padres community or found in the Forest cultural resources files and research archives. In addition, Jim's lack of official Forest Service affiliation and his colorful writing style would hopefully ensure an enjoyable as well as informative document.

It was agreed that Jim's draft document would be prepared using a mutually agreed upon outline. The Forest Service would edit the document as deemed necessary and insert data relating to the Monterey Ranger District, since Jim's knowledge and sources of information were limited to the Forest's main division (including the Santa Lucia, Santa Barbara, Ojai and Mt. Pinos Ranger Districts). One consequence is that the material relating to the Monterey Ranger District is minimal or inadequately documented, definitely on a different scale than that for the rest of the Forest.

In addition to completing the draft overview manuscript, the contract called for preparation of a bibliography of pertinent historical documents (see Appendix A) and updating of the Los Padres cultural resources site atlas with information about historic structures and historic archeological sites. All in all, the work requested and accomplished far exceeded the monetary return.

1.3 Organization of the Overview

It is essential that a chronicle and assessment of Forest history not be limited by administrative boundaries. The Los Padres does not exist, or operate, in a vacuum. Throughout the historic era, the state of the Forest has been dependent primarily on the needs and desires of people in the surrounding environs. With this in mind, activities and events are included in this overview which occurred not only within the present Forest boundaries, but also around the edges of the Forest, in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, and even in Washington, D.C. (among other places).

The overview is organized first by chronological periods. This was necessary, since it was intended to show cultural change over time, specifically changes in land use and in the ways the Forest Service manages land. The overlaps that occur between periods are largely the result of transitional events, often those which induced or eased the change from one government to another.

The information available for the most recent period, lumped under "Growth and Development", is understandably more substantial than that for earlier times. This period also has seen the most intense activity within the Forest boundaries and includes the period of Forest Service administrative history. For these reasons, a number of themes were identified as a means of organizing the data. Of course, these themes are interrelated; and the reader should be careful to read the "Growth and Development" section as a whole for that reason. A good example of the overlap involved is the Civilian Conservation Corps, which is discussed in its own section, but also cuts across other themes, such as transportation, communication, and recreation. There is also some overlap with earlier periods, since the roots of some areas of development are in the hispanic period.

The word "Forest" with an upper case F is used throughout the document to refer to the modern Los Padres boundaries. Locations and placenames also usually refer to modern designations, unless otherwise stated.

In general, the reader will be moving from north to south geographically in reading about events associated with a time period or theme; thus, the Monterey Ranger District is usually, although not always, discussed first.

2.0 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Many of the events which led to the establishment of Los Padres National Forest took place long before the idea of a national forest was ever conceived. It is important that many of the events which influenced actions within the Forest occurred outside the eventual Forest boundaries, in adjacent areas. This is true even today and results partially from the location of the Supervisor's Office and most Ranger Stations on the Forest's fringes. Probably more important, the population which influences the activities within the Forest is located primarily adjacent to, rather than within, its boundaries.

This overview is roughly divided into segments which have relevance for understanding cultural change. The amount of overlap among periods keeps them from being true chronological divisions. These periods are:

- Hispanic Period, including the Spanish, Mission and Mexican sub-periods
- American Conquest
- Growth and Development, including establishment of Forest Reserves and the early period of Forest administration.

2.2 Hispanic Period

2.2.1 Early Spanish Explorations

Just fifty years after the discovery of the Americas by Columbus, two major expeditions were sent from Mexico to explore the lands to the north. The first of these expeditions was that of Vasquez de Coronado. Coronado was never in any portion of California, but tales of his movement to the east were circulated among Indian tribes until these stories were no doubt known by the Chumash Indians living along the California coast.

The second major expedition was not a land march like Coronado's, but an exploration of the coast by ship. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo began his voyage up the coast of Baja California and into the region of Alta California in 1542. This was 80 years before the Pilgrims settled in New England and 200 years before the California missions were established.

Cabrillo entered the Santa Barbara Channel on October 7, 1542. On October 10 he visited the mainland, possibly near the mouth of the Santa Clara River. Looking up the valley he mentioned seeing high mountains. This was probably the first view by a European of the land that became Los Padres National Forest. Sailing on up the coast, he passed the future sites of Ventura, Carpinteria, and Santa Barbara. On October 16 the expedition arrived at the mouth of a canyon with a large Indian village on each side, which Cabrillo called Dos Pueblos. The location is still known by this name, the oldest place-name in Alta California. Cabrillo continued west along the coast, visiting San Miguel Island, and on October 18, 1542, he attempted to round a point which he called Cabo de Galera (Point Conception); strong winds forced him to return to San Miguel Island and the local coast. On November 11 he rounded Point Conception, sailed north along the coast passing within sight of the present Santa Lucia Ranger District of the Forest, and passed the future location of Monterey. This trip carried him as far north as Bodega Bay.

The expedition returned to San Miguel Island, where they wintered, on November 23. Cabrillo died during this period and was buried, probably at sea near the island. He instructed his officers to continue the exploration of the coast, and on February 18 they sailed north as far as Cape Mendocino before returning to San Miguel Island on March 5. From there they sailed back to Mexico. While Cabrillo did not land and visit any portion of the Forest, he did sail along its southern and western edges and was the first European to describe the area.

Following Cabrillo, Sir Francis Drake sailed along the California coast in 1578, and Sebastian Vizcaino visited the coast and mapped the Monterey Bay area in 1602. Neither Drake nor Vizcaino provided information about the Los Padres vicinity, although Vizcaino was impressed with the Monterey area and reported it as a good bay for establishing a harbor of refuge for the Manila Galleons. In 1769 Don Gaspar de Portola was appointed military governor of Alta California and authorized to lead an expedition to establish settlements in the new territory. After establishing a base at San Diego, Governor Portola started up the coast in search of Monterey. He left on July 14, 1769, with Fathers Juan Crespi and Francisco Gomez, a sergeant, an engineer and 32 soldiers, as well as some Indians from Baja California. The expedition skirted the Santa Ynez Mountains by following the coastline past Point Conception, then heading north along the coast to a point just beyond Piedros Blancos, in San Luis Obispo County, where they turned inland up San Carpoforo Creek to ascend the Santa Lucia Mountains. Local informants report that Portola camped on San Carpoforo Creek either within or just south of the present Monterey Ranger District boundary. The expedition passed through the southern part of the District as the troops ascended the Santa Lucias and then descended to the Nacimiento River. Continuing north, they reached the Salinas River near the present King City and followed the river to its mouth near Monterey.

Arriving in the Monterey area, the Portola expedition did not recognize the location as their destination and continued on northward. On the 25th day of October, 1769, they discovered San Francisco Bay. From the bay region the expedition returned to San Diego for supplies. Again traveling north up the coast, Portola retraced his original route to Monterey Bay, where he was met by a supply ship which had sailed up the coast from San Diego. The Monterey Presidio was established and later a mission (Mission San Carlos del Borromeo) was begun. Portola's route to Monterey became what is now known as "El Camino Real." Today Highway 101 follows on or near Portola's original route.

In May of 1772 Captain Juan Bautista de Anza petitioned the Spanish Viceroy for permission to organize and lead an expedition to Alta California. For a time his request was rejected. Late in 1773 his petition was approved, and on January 9, 1774, Anza left the Presidio of Tubac in southern Arizona. The main purpose of the venture was to open a land route to supply the settlements being established in Alta California. On March 2 the group left the Colorado River, and on March 22 they reached San Gabriel Mission. From there Anza traveled north with a small detachment to Monterey. It took him 11 days to make the journey. On May 26 Anza returned to Tubac.

A second expedition led by Anza set out from Tubac on October 22, 1775. This party was composed of 240 persons, 155 of them women. The first expedition had found the route northward, and the second was commissioned to take settlers and troops to establish a mission and presidio at San Francisco. These colonists were very important to the future development of California as they were the forerunners of many important Alta California families. In January, 1776, Anza's expedition reached Mission San Gabriel. While the colonists rested, Anza and eighteen of his men joined Rivera to put down an Indian uprising at San Diego. On February 21 the expedition again set out for Monterey, with a stop on March 2 at San Luis Obispo to obtain supplies. They reached Monterey on March 10. Anza followed approximately the same route as Portola, with the exception that Anza crossed the Cuesta Grade, descended Santa Margarita Creek, passed Paso Robles and continued on down the Salinas River toward Monterey, instead of crossing through the Santa Lucia Mountains. The difference in routes was due to the establishment of Mission San Luis Obispo and the shortened, improved route of El Camino Real. Thus, Anza's route passed through the northwest section of the present Santa Lucia Ranger District.

Spanish explorations also occurred along the east side of the Forest. The first of these expeditions was led by Captain Pedro Fages in 1772. Pursuing deserters from the San Diego Presidio, Fages crossed the Cuyamaca Mountains and passed through the Imperial Valley, Cajon Pass and the Mojave Desert in the vicinity of Quail and Hughes Lake; he then followed Grapevine Canyon and crossed the southwestern end of the Central (San Joaquin) Valley to reach Buena Vista Lake. (1) Fages described the scene much as we see it today: "The range inland on the other side of the river is very high and its peaks are permanently covered with snow. Many trees of a variety of species grow in the excellent soil of the foothills." (2) He was describing the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains as seen in the distance from Buena Vista Lake. His departure from the Central Valley was probably by the most direct route to San Luis Obispo: through the Temblor Range, across the Carrizo Plain, and through the La Panza area of the Forest to reach Mission San Luis Obispo.

In April 1776 Father Francisco Garces visited Indian rancherias that had been visited by Captain Pedro Fages some four years earlier. From the Tehachapi Mountains he observed a range to the east which he named "Sierra de San Marcos." Later he came to a large river which he described as one "whose waters, crystaline, bountiful, and palatable, flowed on the course from the east through a straitened channel." (3) He called the river "San Felipe," now known as the Kern River. After an extended period of time in which he explored the southern tip of the Central Valley and visited numerous Indian rancherias, he left the valley via the Tehachapi Pass. From there he crossed the Mojave Desert to the Colorado River and passed out of the area never to return. His diary of the expedition was widely circulated, acquainting numerous others with the area he had visited.

In 1796 Diego de Borica wrote to Felipe de Goycochea, the commandante of Santa Barbara, and inquired about the feasibility of making a connection with the Spanish in New Mexico. Goycochea had gained some knowledge of the possible route from two soldiers under his command, Francisco Cayuella and Mariano Cordero, who had once deserted and fled into the Central Valley. Cordero informed the commander that the Indians had told him there were other white men about five days travel to the east of the Sierras, who were not white "because of snow, but because they were of white composition." (4)

Until this time expeditions (with the exception of Portola in the Santa Lucias) had passed either to the east or to the west of the mountainous interior areas. The first recorded military visit to the Santa Barbara backcountry occurred in 1790. It is well documented due to the nature of the events.

The Commandante Felipe de Goycochea dispatched a party of nine men, consisting of Sergeant Jose Ignacio Olivera and eight soldiers, and an Indian interpreter, to the backcountry in search of a runaway Mission neophyte. Their first stop was at Najalayegua, a large Indian village on the Santa Ynez River, where they picked up three additional Indians. Later 15 more Chumash accompanied the group until they reached the San Emigdio Mountains, where the soldiers and Indians parted company. It later became known that the Indians from Najalayegua and those living in the Castac and San Emigdio areas were enemies, with raiding and feuding going on between the rancherias. (5)

Sergeant Olivera was looking for a runaway neophyte named Domingo from Mission San Buenaventura. Goycochea had also ordered the party to search for mineral deposits reported to be in the San Emigdio Creek area. The party left Santa Barbara on August 24, 1790, and upon arriving at the rancheria of Tinoqui, they found the fugitive native. Camping at a place called Cullamuhuasulugoy, the party began the search for minerals. On August 29, Sergeant Olivera detached a party of five men to continue the search. Sergeant Olivera and three soldiers remained in camp, but later the Sergeant took one of the men with him to make a reconnaissance of another area near the camp. This left two soldiers, Hilario Carlon and Gabriel Espinosa, to guard the camp.

Meanwhile a group of Indians were getting together to attack the rancheria of Najalayegua. There were about 58 Indians involved in this raid. When they came across signs of the Olivera party, they located their camp and, finding the two soldiers not on the alert, attacked. Gabriel Espinosa was sleeping and met death without awakening. The guard was sewing his shoe and was killed by a knife thrust. "Stealing a fully equipped horse and several guns, and appropriating the dead soldiers' gear, the Indians departed." (6)

The five soldiers returning from their mineral search found their dead companions, buried them, and started back to Santa Barbara. On the way they met Olivera and the soldier he had taken with him, whom they thought had also been killed by the Indians. The group arrived in Santa Barbara on September 1. (7)

An expedition consisting of 28 soldiers and Sergeant Olivera under the command of Alferez Pablo Cota set out to bring back the Indians who had perpetrated the attack on the soldiers. Advance warning of Cota's intentions was given to the Indians and the villages were vacant when the party arrived. They did succeed in capturing two prisoners, Soxollue of Taxicoo, who had taken part in the attack, and Domingo, from whom the details of the attack were learned. (8)

Goycochea and Olivera were censured for their parts in the expedition. The Spanish had learned a lesson, but at the cost of two lives. Later expeditions into the interior were rarely surprised by Indian attack, and small detachments were never split up under potentially dangerous circumstances. (9)

Spanish knowledge of the interior of California was scanty at the end of the 18th century. Much of what was known was learned on expeditions in search of military deserters and runaway mission neophytes. In 1794 Father Tomas Pungua wrote that gentile Indians living in the mountains and the Central Valley were a source of depredations to the missions, and though occasionally troops had followed them, they had not been able to capture them because the Indians took refuge in the lake region where the tules offered remarkably good cover. In addition, lack of personnel was always a problem and very few troops were available for guard duty at the missions and the presidios.

2.2.2 The Missions and the Spanish Colonial Government

Missionization

Jose Galvez, Visitor General of New Spain, chose Father Junipero Serra, president of the Franciscan missions of Baja California, to be the ecclesiastical overseer for the establishment of a chain of missions from San Diego to Monterey. Galvez directed that these missions be built at intervals of one day's ride along the route. The first mission in Alta California was founded on July 16, 1769 and named San Diego de Alcala.

A chain of 21 missions was established by the Franciscan fathers. It extended along the coast from San Diego on the south to Sonoma on the north. Eight of these missions were directly associated with the future Los Padres National Forest. The southernmost mission affecting the Forest's development was San Buenaventura, and the northernmost La Soledad. These missions exerted a great deal of influence on the future development of the area, and the nearness of the Forest lands likewise affected the development of the missions. Each is discussed briefly here; however, the literature dealing with the mission system is vast and offers numerous opportunities for further defining the relationship of the missions to early land use within the Forest.

Mission San Antonio de Padua was founded by Father Junipero Serra near the current town of Jolon on July 14, 1771. This mission had the largest population of neophytes of any of the California missions, with recruiting done as far away as Big Sur, Monterey, and the Carmel Valley. (83) During the early historic period, the Mission sometimes served as a refuge from marauding coastal pirates for women and children from Monterey. Throughout its history this mission has been intimately associated with nearby portions of the Monterey Ranger District, particularly the area now known as "The Indians." Although there are no documentary records, former residents in the area believe that the vicinity of "The Indians" was an outpost of Mission San Antonio, favored for some uses because of its verdure. In recent years, a brother from the Mission found a variety of Mission Grape at the Indians Ranch, one not currently found at the Mission itself. The early owners of that ranch, the Encinales family, were Salinan Indians with ties to Mission San Antonio and Mission San Miguel. (84)

On September 1, 1772, Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa was founded by Father Serra. Father Cavaller, five soldiers and two Indians were left to begin the mission as Father Serra continued his journey to San Diego. This mission held land at Santa Margarita, near the northern portions of the Santa Lucia Ranger District.

San Bueneventura Mission was the next founded in the vicinity of the Forest. It was established by Father Serra on March 31, 1782, and Fathers Benito and Cambon were the first persons in charge. The mission was started in the corner of what later became the orchard, but high water in the Ventura River damaged the walls and it was moved to higher ground where it is located today.

Santa Barbara Mission was established by Fathers Antonio Paterma and Christoval Oramer on December 4, 1786. Father Serra made plans to build this mission at the same time the San Buenaventura Mission was established. Because the military forces were engaged then in the construction of the presidio at Santa Barbara, he requested that the mission be delayed until work on the presidio was further advanced. Father Serra had died by the time the Santa Barbara Mission was established, so he did not dedicate the mission as he had hoped to do. Because of its geographical location and the nearness of the presidio, this mission flourished and became known as the "Queen of the Missions." Between 1786 and 1846, 4,715 Chumash Indians became Christians at this mission.

Mission La Purisima Concepcion at Lompoc was founded December 8, 1787, over a year after Mission Santa Barbara. Due to the favorable location of this mission, it showed great promise. La Purisima developed rapidly until December 8, 1911, when a severe earthquake destroyed the church and most of the buildings surrounding it. The mission was rebuilt at a new location.

Mission La Soledad was founded October 9, 1791, by Father Lasuen. The word "soledad" as used in this geographic area had its origin in a local Indian dialect, probably from the Esselen group. Some neophytes from the northern part of the Monterey Ranger District, particularly the Arroyo Seco and other interior groups, were taken to Mission La Soledad.

San Miguel Archangel was established on July 25, 1797, on the west bank of the Salinas River. It was the sixteenth mission added to the mission chain. With large areas of rolling grassland, the mission became rich in livestock. "It was reported that the mission and its dependent ranchos was the owner of 91,000 cattle, 1,100 tame horses, 3,000 mares, 2,000 mules, 340 oxen and 47,000 sheep. At the height of its power, it numbered among its dependents 6,000 Indians, besides the soldiers and civilized people (gente de razon) necessary to operate such an establishment." (10) During the gold rush days, San Miguel was used as a saloon and storehouse, but has since been restored and rededicated.

The last mission built in the Forest's vicinity was Santa Ynez, which was founded September 17, 1804. "In 1831, perhaps its most prosperous period, the mission had under its charge 142 men, 136 women, 82 boys, and 96 girls, making a total of 456 souls." (11) The only recognized Indian Reservation near the Forest is that of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, who hold less than 100 acres located close to the reconstructed Mission Santa Ynez.

With the establishment of the missions, the padres began an intensive program of proselytizing the native Indian population. Expeditions were organized to visit the Indian rancherias in the vicinity of the missions and seek converts to the Catholic faith, and workers for the mission community.

Indians from the upper Salinas River area were almost certainly removed to Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa at a relatively early date after its establishment in 1772. In 1776, Font recorded recruitment by Mission San Luis Obispo extending across the Forest area as far eastward as Yokuts (Noche) territory. (12)

"From nearly the beginning of Mission Santa Barbara's establishment in December 1786, there appeared in the mission registers the names of a few converts who are natives of mountain villages. Most early baptisms were drawn from coastal villages. . .Perhaps the most significant early baptisms were those of a 60-year old chief and his son from the village of Stucu in July 1788, . . ." (14)

The first recorded missionary visit to a mountain rancheria took place on August 27, 1789, when three young girls were baptized at Stucu rancheria located in Stuk Canyon in the San Raphael Mountains. (13)

"The process of converting the mountain Chumash began in earnest in 1796. On March 26 of that year, a group of Indians accepted baptism, representing at least five families, primarily from the mountain rancherias of Najalayegua and Siguaya. Inducements were offered to encourage parents to have their children baptized and all baptized Indians were provided with an annual allotment of a blanket and shirt, even though they lived away from the mission. When baptized children reached about ten years of age they were brought to the mission to receive instruction in the Catholic doctrine, and at that time their parents might also choose to join the mission community.

"After accepting baptism, Indian neophytes participated in the mission work force, but every fifth week excursions were granted so that Christian Indians could visit relatives in their native villages. Two weeks were allowed for the mountain Chumash whose rancherias were located farthest from the mission. Also in September, after the harvest of mission crops, all mission neophytes were given six weeks leave to return to their native rancherias to participate in the islay and acorn harvests." (15)

In the Santa Barbara area, after most of the coastal Indians had been converted to mission life, the effort to convert the mountain Chumash was emphasized. In 1799 expeditions were begun to the mountain rancherias. With the completion of the trail over San Marcos Pass in 1800 and the establishment of Santa Ynez Mission in 1804, an intensive recruitment program was begun in the interior which reached across the mountains into the Cuyama Valley.

Not all coastal and mountain Chumash wished to be drawn into the developing mission community. These Indians either fled to the mountain rancherias or traveled further to join the gentile Indians of the Central [San Joaquin] Valley. The tule lakes in the southern Central Valley became the home of mission neophytes who had become disenchanted with their life at the missions. These Indians were a source of great difficulty for the mission padres because of the influence they continued to exert on the neophytes at the missions. The gentiles also became increasingly bold in their raids on the horse herds of the missions. They were just beginning to recognize the mobility that horses provided, although most of the captured horses were consumed for food soon after reaching the mountains or the Central Valley. Most of the early expeditions to the Central Valley in the 1800's were to capture escaped neophytes or to attempt to recapture the stolen horses obtained from the mission horse herds. Today, the Chumash descendants in the Bakersfield area bear witness to the these flights from mission influence.

In 1822 two old women from the rancherias of Siguaya and Najalayegua were baptized at Mission Santa Barbara. According to mission baptism records, these were the last two individuals baptized who had been born at mountain Chumash rancherias.

Timber Harvesting During the Spanish Period

The Indians were taught by the Fathers to make adobe bricks and use them to construct buildings at the missions and at the Santa Barbara Presidio. Lumber was in great demand for use above doors and windows, as rafters, and for other purposes around the missions. Along the south coast, no stands of suitable timber were found close to the missions. Oak, willow, sycamore and cottonwood trees growing in the vicinity of the missions did not produce the long straight beams needed for building construction. In 1800 when Father Rapis wrote his report, he described the opening of a trail across the Sierra de Mescaltitan (Santa Ynez Mountains) that was constructed in eight weeks by a group of 30 to 40 Indians under their own leader to obtain pine beams for construction of the houses of the Indians at the Mission. A local folk tale tells of pine beams being cut on the top of Mission Pine Mountain and carried on the shoulders of the Indians down the mountain to a point where they could be dragged to the Mission by oxen.

Father Ripoll's notes indicate that in 1817 pine timbers were cut at a place in the mountains called Sunpue in the region near Najalayegua. (16) The rancheria of Najalayegua was located at the confluence of Caliente Creek and the Santa Ynez River, and Little Pine Mountain is the closest location with pine trees. The Coulter pines on Little Pine Mountain do not grow as tall as the sugar pine or ponderosa pine found growing on Mission Pine Mountain. Possibly this latter location was reserved for obtaining the long beams used to roof the mission chapel and those from Little Pine were used for smaller buildings at the mission.

The Forest was a source of timber for missions other than Santa Barbara. In fact, timber was even more scarce at San Diego than at Santa Barbara. "When the fort at Point Guijarros was built between 1795 and 1800 near the entrance of San Diego Bay, timbers from the mountains around Santa Barbara and Monterey were shipped down." (17)

The pine timbers used in construction of Mission San Buenaventura were brought about 40 miles from the mountains around San Emigdio, in the present Mt. Pinos Ranger District. The oak timbers were obtained around Santa Ana and Ojai. (18) "In the early portion of the last century, the Franciscan mission fathers did some cutting of big cone spruce, near the headwaters of (the) North Fork of Matilija Creek, securing timbers for the construction of the Mission San Buenaventura." (19)

There are also stories told of the use of trees from the Forest for beams in the original Mission San Antonio. A Mr. Hargis, longtime resident of the Jolon area, related that as a child he played in the old Mission ruins (before reconstruction) and noticed that incense cedars had been used for some of the roof beams. Later, he found incense cedar stumps about 1/4 mile from the saddle between the Santa Lucia and Bear Creek drainages, along the south fork of Santa Lucia Creek, and assumed that these were the source of incense cedar used at the Mission. (88) Getting the trees from the stump location to the Mission would have been a difficult task, but not impossible.

Spanish Land Grants: the Ortega Concession

The search for timber contributed to the beginning of a great change in the land use of Alta California. In 1804 Jose Maria Ortega, son of Jose Francisco, wrote to Governor Jose Joaquin de Arrillaga requesting title to Refugio (Rancho). In his letter, Jose Maria claimed to have discovered Refugio while searching for timber to repair the Santa Barbara presidio during the tenure of Governor Jose Antonio Romeu (circa 1791). Jose Maria reminded the Governor that the Ortegas received permission to establish the Refugio Rancho from Governor Diego de Borica and in November of 1794 built houses and planted a vineyard and orchard at Refugio. (20) Vicente Ortega, interviewed in his late 80's, spoke of a tradition in his family that in the early days timber was cut at the Refugio Pines, east of the famous Refugio Pass at the summit of the Santa Ynez Mountains. The logs were transported down Refugio Canyon to the beach and floated to Santa Barbara. This seems to back up Jose Maria's statement in his letter to the governor.

There were no Spanish land grants in the county of Santa Barbara. However, the Ortegas received a concession named Nuestra Senora del Refugio which later became a Mexican land grant.

Jose Francisco Ortega, founder of the presidio at Santa Barbara, was transferred in 1791 to the position of commandante at Loreto. While there he ran up a considerable debt to the government of New Spain. After his retirement from the military he returned to Santa Barbara and applied to the government for a concession on which to raise stock so that he could repay his debt. The concession was granted and Jose Francisco Ortega retired to his rancho at Refugio Canyon. Just three years later Jose Francisco died, at Casil near Refugio on his way to Santa Barbara. In 1803 Maria Antonia Carrillo de Ortega, Jose Francisco's wife, died. The son, Jose Maria Ortega, unsuccessfully petitioned Governor Arrillaga for title to Refugio in 1808. The family continued to live on the rancho; as sons married they would move to another canyon on the rancho and set up housekeeping. In 1813 Jose Francisco Maria unsuccessfully petitioned for formal title to Refugio.

In 1818 the pirate Bochard and his insurgents burned the Refugio Rancho. In 1822 Mexican independence was realized, and finally in 1828 the Mexican Congress authorized land grants of full title. Under the new land laws of Mexico, Antonio Maria Ortega and Magdalena Cota de Ortega received a formal grant of title to Rancho Nuestra Senora del Refugio in 1834.

By 1846 the American conquest of California was completed and in 1853 the Ortega family filed a claim for title with the United States Land Commission; it was approved the next year. In 1864 after the disastrous drought in southern California, the family began to sell off portions of the Ortega Rancho. Pedro and Maria Gonzaga Ortega de Ortega sold Arroyo Hondo Rancho in 1889. This represents the last parcel of the original Refugio grant to pass from Ortega ownership. Thus was brought to a close the history of the first and only Spanish concession to be granted in Santa Barbara County. With the establishment of the Santa Ynez Forest Reserve, the northern boundary of the Ortega Grant became the southern boundary of the reserve. With little change this same line forms the boundary of the present Forest along the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains.

Expeditions to the Interior

A number of events and quite a few years passed before most of the other lands surrounding the Forest were granted. During the period from 1800 to 1833, the missions reached their zenith, and there was considerable exploration of the backcountry and the Central Valley. The Spanish and Mexican governments gained a much better knowledge of the mountain ranges that were to become Los Padres National Forest. Over a period of about fifty years, while the Indians were being drawn into the mission system, priests, soldiers and others were continually reaching out into the interior. The numerous visits by these people left their mark on the inhabitants of the interior. Diaries were kept during many of these expeditions. Today, these diaries provide a picture of life among the native inhabitants of the mountains and the Central Valley.

Father Juan Martin of San Miguel, protected by one soldier, visited a village called Cholam. He asked the chief of the village to give him children to baptize, but the chief told him to leave the area. A sergeant, a corporal and thirteen soldiers went to the village and captured the chief, his son, two sub-chiefs and several others and brought them to Mission San Miguel. While this expedition did not pass through the Forest, it did open up a route to the Central Valley.

One of the most important expeditions of this period was that of Father Jose Maria de Zalvidea from July 19 to August 14, 1806. The expedition was carried out at the governor's direction in his official letter of July 10, 1806. Because of its importance the route of Zalvidea's expedition will be followed in some detail.

July 19. The party left Santa Barbara in the morning and arrived at the Santa Ynez Mission in the evening. This was a full day's trip, either through Refugio or San Marcos Pass.

July 20. After Mass they traveled north, visiting the villages of Jonatas and Saca, and finally ending the day at Olomosong after traveling some eleven leagues.

July 21. The party continued to travel north and in four leagues came to the village of Gecp. Here Zalvidea's interpreters had to turn back due to illness. Zalvidea continued up a canyon through broken mountains most of the day.

July 22. Early this morning the party climbed over a mountain by a very bad path. They were probably crossing the Sierra Madre Mountains by one of the Indian trails which crossed this range of mountains. They descended into the Cuyama Valley east of the Spanish Ranch and continued east up the valley for two leagues to the village of Lisahua, possibly near the mouth of either Salisbury or Santa Barbara Canyon.

July 23. At first Zalvidea went east for four leagues, then turned up the valley, probably up the Cuyama River to the village of Siguecin [Ciwikon] some four leagues to the south. The party then returned to Lisahua where they spent the night.

July 24. The party again traveled to the east to the village of Sgene in the lower bend of the Cuyama River before it turns toward the west. Continuing toward the east they crossed over the San Andreas Fault near Camp Dix and descended into one of the canyons which drains toward the north into Buena Vista Lake.

July 25. They began traveling north down the canyon and came to the village of Buenavista on Kern Lake, which is fed by the Kern River.

July 26. The party traveled along the southern and eastern shore of the lake until they reached Sisupistu.

July 27. Traveling across an open grassy plain they camped by a small stream at the edge of the foothills.

July 28. On this day the party explored the lower portions of five creeks emptying into the Central Valley. These possibly included Tejon, El Paso and Pastoria Creeks.

July 29. Part of the party explored Grapevine Canyon and visited the village of Tacui (Tecuya?).

July 30. Spent the day in camp resting the horses.

July 31. In the afternoon traveled north across an open plain four leagues to a dry camp.

Aug. 1. In the morning continued north five leagues to the Kern River and visited villages in the area.

Aug. 2 and 3. These two days were spent traveling south across the plain east of Kern Lake.

Aug. 4. After traveling four leagues the party entered a canyon where a few years earlier Indians had killed two soldiers. (This was San Emigdio Canyon where Hilario Carlon and Gabriel Espinosa of the Jose Ignacio Olivera expedition of 1790 were killed.) They continued up the canyon, possibly to Mill Potrero.

Aug. 5. A side trip over pine-covered ridges did not turn up the hoped-for watering place, so they returned to camp.

Aug. 6. Traveling east the full length of Cuddy Valley, the party stopped somewhere in the vicinity of Gorman at a sag pond on the San Andreas Fault.

Aug. 7. This day they made a side trip to the village of Casteque located near what is now known as Castac Lake.

Aug. 8. Continuing eastward the party entered Antelope Valley and crossed to the San Gabriel Mountains. Passing around the western end of this range they continued along the foothills.

Aug. 14. They reached Mission San Gabriel. (21)

The Zalvidea expedition passed across a portion of the current Santa Lucia Ranger District, between the Sisquoc River and the Cuyama Valley, and again passed through the Forest in the Mt. Pinos Ranger District between San Emigdio and Frazier Park. Fray Zalvidea's report of the trip to the governor gives the location of Indian villages with estimates of the number of individuals living in these villages. The report also describes the vegetation and water resources of the areas he passed through.

In 1806 Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga and Father Pedro Munoz left Mission San Juan Bautista and crossed over into the Central Valley, which they explored while traveling southward. Crossing the Kern River they ascended Grapevine Canyon, leaving the Central Valley at its southern end. On November 3 they reached Mission San Fernando. The trip took forty-four days and was important because it gave the Spanish their first well-documented expedition through the entire length of the Central Valley. An asistensia was later established by the Santa Barbara Mission at San Emigdio.

Moraga visited the Central Valley again in 1807. He entered the valley from San Miguel Mission, visited Buena Vista Lake, explored the Kern River, then headed north and left the valley at San Jose. The expedition sought runaway neophytes and new converts. (22)

In 1818 and 1819 conditions were becoming very serious for the coastal missions. The valley and Mojave Indians were invading the territory of the missions, driving off stock and causing grave unrest among the neophytes living there. During these two years and for several additional years, numerous expeditions were sent out to try to ease the tensions on the once peaceful southern frontier. In most cases these expeditions were unsuccessful, but they contributed considerable knowledge about the geography and conditions existing in the Central Valley and in the Mojave Desert further to the east.

Spain's control of the province was fast drawing to a close. Beginning in 1822 a new government would face many of the same problems. However, the transfer of power had little effect or influence on conditions in the area of the Forest, which was still used primarily as a route for travel from the coastal missions to the interior. Most of the Indian population of the area had been drawn into the mission program. With the exception of a few individuals, interior villages were uninhabited, or visited only for short periods of time.

2.2.3 Mexican Period

Mission Indian Rebellions and Mexican Expeditions to the Interior

In 1822 Mexico obtained its independence from Spain. This had little effect on the day to day life of the hispanic population living in Alta California. Mexico was unable to press the advantages offered by her northern territories and California lay virtually ignored. It has been estimated that in the little more than half a century that elapsed from the arrival of the Spanish at San Diego until Mexican independence occurred, a population of 3,500 hispanics developed in Alta California.

With the dawning of the year 1824 conditions for an Indian revolt were ripening. The missionaries treated the Indians as children in their care, but the soldiers used and harrassed the Indians at every opportunity. They requisitioned the Indians for work details with little or no recompense. The slightest infraction of rules brought on swift and severe punishment.

On Sunday February 21, 1824, it is reported that an Indian at Mission Santa Ynez was whipped by a guard. This set off a general rebellion. The revolt spread to Mission La Purisima, where considerable destruction occurred with the loss of life of several travelers who arrived at the mission during the fighting. The revolts at Purisima and Santa Ynez were crushed through the agency of the militia and troops from the presidio. Retribution was meted out to the offenders. Details are provided in H. H. Bancroft's account of the rebellion (23).

On Monday, February 22, the revolt spread to Mission Santa Barbara. The majority of the local Indians became very excited and unsettled, and took up arms. After a number of ineffectual skirmishes with troops from the presidio, the Indians took provisions and fled up Mission Canyon to the site of an Indian village located above the Mission Dam. While camped above the dam, the neophytes sent messages to Father Antonio Ripoll at Mission Santa Barbara. When they could get no firm assurance of a pardon, they picked up camp and moved across the Santa Ynez Mountains to Los Prietos. (Los Prietos received its name from the fact that the mission kept its herd of sheep with dark-colored wool at this location). (24)

While still camped in Mission Canyon above the old Mission Dam, Andres (Sagimomatsse) sent three messengers to the Indians of the Central Valley requesting help in fighting the Mexican soldiers. He sent Hilarion, Jose, and Luis Calala, who were probably selected because of their ties to the inland Chumash or Yokuts. Hilarion Chaaj had been born in the Buenavista area. Jose was probably Jose Venadero whose wife was from the southern San Joaquin Valley, and Luis Calala was the brother of the chief of Taxlipu, a Chumash village in San Emigdio Canyon. (25)

During the stay at Los Prietos the Indians were joined by Indians from La Purisima, Santa Ynez, and Rancho San Marcos. These latter Indians brought two barrels of wine which were used for a big drunk by the assembled group. Messages were sent back to Mission Santa Barbara, but with no positive results. After a week the Indians crossed the San Rafael Mountains by way of the ancient Indian trail up Mono Creek and down Santa Barbara Canyon, crossed the Cuyama Valley, and finally reached the villages surrounding Buenavista Lake southwest of Bakersfield.

After the Indians had been gone from the mission for a short time, it was decided that it was desirable to return the Christian Indians to the mission environment. Also it was very necessary to remove the fugitives from the Central Valley, as they posed the threat of leading a general revolt against the Mexicans by the Central Valley Indians. It was necessary to send two military expeditions to the Central Valley before the Indians were talked into returning to the missions.

The first of the two expeditions was under the command of Narciso Fabregat, lieutenant of Mazatlan. He left with 85 men and traveled to the vicinity of San Emigdio where he met three Indians on horseback with a fourth Indian riding behind. The Mexicans gave chase and captured the fourth Indian who had been put off by his companions. After some discussion the soldiers killed this Indian, but due to a very strong wind that began to blow and the great clouds of dust that arose over the area, the Mexicans then turned back. After a running fight with some of the fugitives, the troops arrived at Mission San Fernando. This expedition accomplished nothing towards bringing back the fugitive Indians.

The second expedition was under the direction of Captain Pablo de la Portilla from San Diego. He was accompanied by Fr. Vicente Sarria, the president of the California missions, and by Fr. Antonio Ripoll of Mission Santa Barbara. On June 2, 1824, the company set out from Santa Barbara Presidio toward San Buenaventura. Also in the group were 30 men of the Mazatlan Squadron under Lieutuenant Juan Maria Ibarra and 24 soldiers of the presidial companies under Cadet Domingo Carrillo of San Diego, who brought a caliber-4 cannon plus munitions and the artillerymen to serve it. On the same date an expedition of 50 men of arms with a cannon of the same caliber left San Miguel Mission under the command of Lieutenant Antonio del Valle of the San Elas Infantry. They were to meet the Portilla group at San Emigdio.

Portilla kept a diary of the expedition and filed a report. (82) From these an accurate record of the trip can be constructed.

June 5. Left San Buenaventura and followed up the valley of the Santa Clara River to Camulos.

June 6. Continued up the river to San Xavier, a sheep ranch of San Fernando Mission where they turned northeast crossing rocky, broken terrain.

June 7. Continued over the rough country until they entered Grapevine Canyon where they made camp.

June 8. Continuing down Grapevine Canyon, they reached the plain where they headed westward to San Emigdio, a rancho of Mission Santa Barbara. There they met the group from Mission San Miguel which had arrived the day before.

June 9. The expedition rested and a messenger was sent to the fugitives in the tulares proposing a meeting in the afternoon. The Indians said that they would talk on the next day when Portilla came to the tulares to meet with them.

June 10. Portilla and the soldiers moved close to the tulare swamp. He and the two padres went forward to meet with Jaime and other representatives of the Indians. A pardon from the Governor was delivered and the negotiations were carried out. The Indians agreed to accept the pardon and return to the mission. It was agreed to meet again the next day.

June 11. The Indians came out of the swamp and a ceremony was held. The cannons were fired and flags were unfurled. Just as all was going well, an Indian from San Miguel came in to report many soldiers coming to attack them. These were actually from Portilla's party but he had a hard time convincing the fugitives that they had already arrived. Many of the families fled back into the swamp, but most eventually returned and camp was set up.

June 12. More families came out and joined the group.

June 13. New alcaldes were appointed, Mass was sung and preparations for the trip back to the mission were made.

June 15. More missing Indians were rounded up.

June 15. De Valle began his return march to Mission San Miguel. Final preparations for departure were made, and some families started on the trail back to the mission at Santa Barbara.

June 16. The remainder of the expedition started home by crossing the plain and entering Santiago Canyon. They camped at the abandoned village of Malapica.

June 17. Day of rest and reorganization.

June 18. After traveling three leagues, they crossed a stream called the Cuyam (Cuyama River), followed up a wide valley (Santa Barbara Canyon), and made camp at about the location of Santa Barbara Canyon Ranch. This was two leagues from the Cuyam. "At this spot is found a spring which flows from the foot of a big cave which is called Corpus." [This probably refers to an important archeological site, formally designated CA-SBa-1215, which was partially excavated by the University of California, Santa Barbara, in the early 1970's]. From Camup they continued up Santa Barbara Canyon, finally coming out over the ridge (passing the future site of the Forest Service Madulce Guard Station) and crossed through the "Puerta Suela" (meaning "gateway") to descend (along Robel Creek) to Casitec or San Pablo. This is the present location of Dutch Oven Camp at the junction of Alamar and Robel Canyons. The name Casitec may be a rendition of the Chumash work Kashtiq, meaning "spring." (27)

June 19. Leaving San Pablo, they continued down Alamar Creek and down the "Caracole" (Spanish for a steep stairway) to Mono Creek. They descended Mono, or Siguaya, Creek to the Indian village site of Siguaya where Jose Venadero had been born. The Mexicans named the site San Gervasio. (28) Carl Stoddard used this name for his ranch on Mono Creek, which later became known as the Ogilvy Ranch.

June 20. Rested at San Gervasio. (29)

June 21. The expedition continued to the mouth of Mono Creek at the Santa Ynez River. They went down the river to Cienegas, a sheep ranch of the Santa Barbara Mission. They named the site Trinidad and spent the rest of the day waiting for the stragglers to catch up. (This was probably the present-day Rancho Oso)..

June 22. They climbed over the Santa Ynez Mountains by the old Indian trail known as the Arroyo Burro Trail. Descending the south side of the mountains they arrived at a place called San Roque which was one and one-half leagues from Mission Santa Barbara. In the afternoon all continued to the mission where the soldiers left to return to the Presidio. (30)

Most of the neophytes who had fled during the revolt returned to the missions. Some chose to remain in the Central Valley; of those, some later returned to the missions of their own free will. It was concluded that as of June 28, 1824, 98 men and 65 women had not returned to the mission.

The end of the revolt of 1824 did not bring about an immediate end to the use of the Santa Barbara backcountry. The Chumash continued to visit relatives in the interior and in the Central Valley, and during their release-time from the mission program, some hunted and gathered wild foods in the Forest. The ethnographer J. P. Harrington noted several references to visits by the Chumash to the area for religious reasons. He reports that two old Indians from the village of Stucu visited the area during the solstice to make paintings. "Another story, related by Luisa Ygnacia, daughter-in-law of Maria Ygnacia, [a Harrington informant] described visits by Andres, who had been leader of the Santa Barbara Indians during the Chumash Revolt, to a cave in the mountains where monos were painted." (31)

After the mission revolt, trade with groups of Indians from the Colorado River Valley increased (although a trading expedition of Mojave Indians had trouble at San Buenaventura Mission, with negative effects on this trade). About this time the inhabitants of the New Mexico territory began to send trading expeditions into the coastal area of California, supposedly to trade; actually, their stock-raiding was much more profitable. The visitors from the territory of New Mexico set up bases in the mountains or at the tulares and sent out parties of local Indians and fugitives from the missions to raid along the coast from San Luis Obispo south to Los Angeles. On February 17, 1833, Fray Vicente Pasqual Oliva sent a letter to Governor Figueroa deploring the continued theft of stock from the missions and settlements. He ended by saying, "If your Excellency does not find some remedy in these matters, the missions will be left without property, as is already happening." (32)

A sort of warfare existed between the Indians of the Central Valley and the coastal missions and settlements from the early 1830's until about 1846, when the Americans took California from Mexico. At the beginning of the Anglo Period in California history, there were some 6,900 persons of Hispanic nationality in California. With the discovery of gold in 1848 and the mass migration of miners into the gold region, the Indian tribes of the northern Central Valley were soon decimated. They were unable to fight successfully against the superior fire power of the Americans, whose pistols and rifles were much superior to the muskets of the Mexicans.

Mexican Land Grants and Secularization

During the period from 1822 to 1846 two interrelated events took place in Alta California which were to have considerable influence on the area which became Los Padres National Forest. The first of these was the land grants of the Mexican Government. The second was the secularization and destruction of the missions.

Most of the land grants were established around the fringes of the Forest, and in many cases grant boundaries became Forest boundaries. There was a total of 90 Spanish and Mexican grants in Monterey County, but only four were close enough to the present Monterey Ranger District boundaries to directly affect the forested lands.

Rancho El Sur was a grant given to Juan B. Alvarado and dated July 30, 1834. El Sur include two leagues of land and was located at Point Sur on the Big Sur Coast, including the mouth of the Big Sur River. This was the only grant made along the Big Sur Coast. San Miguelito and El Piojo were adjacent land grants on the eastern side of the Santa Lucia Range, in the Nacimiento and San Antonio River valleys. San Miguelito was granted September 25, 1839; the name is a diminutive of the placename San Miguel. El Piojo was named after El Piojo Creek, a tributary of the Nacimiento River, and abutted San Miguelito's southeastern boundary; "piojo" is a Spanish word meaning "louse." El Piojo was granted to Juaquin Soto on August 20, 1842. Neither of these grants was directly adjacent to the present Forest boundary, but their locations were important in later land exchanges which resulted in the current boundaries between Fort Hunter Liggett and the Forest.

The largest and most influential Monterey County grant with regard to use of the Forest was Las Milpitas, dated May 5, 1838. This grant is discussed further below.

In San Luis Obispo County the following were the best known grants.

The Asuncion grant was at the northern edge of the present Santa Lucia Ranger District. It was generally west of Atascadero. The grant was made in 1845 to Pedro Estrada, who was claimant for 39,222 acres patented March 22, 1866. A short distance south of this grant was that of Santa Margarita, located near the town of the same name and just west of the Forest. Four leagues were granted in 1841 to Joaquin Estrada, who claimed 17,735 acres and received a patent on April 9, 1861.

The following grants were along the west edge of the Forest's main division, from north to south. Potrero de San Luis Obispo was located three miles north of the city of San Luis Obispo. One league was granted in 1842 to M. Conception Boronda who was claimant for 3,506 acres, patented July 1, 1870. Moving south the Huasna Grant was next. Five leagues were granted in 1843 to Isaac J. Sparks, who was claimant for 22,153 acres, patented January 23, 1879. This was followed by the Suey Grant which was partially in Santa Barbara County. Ramona Carrillo was granted Suey, northeast of Santa Maria, in 1837. Ramona Carrillo de Wilson was claimant for 48,834 acres for which she received a patent August 10, 1865.

Two other grants were in both San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County. These were the Cuyama grants. Cuyama No. 1, including 22,193 acres, was along the Cuyama River west of the town of New Cuyama and consisted of five leagues granted to Jose Maria Rojo in 1843 and patented to Maria Antonia de la Guerra de Lataillade on July 20, 1877. Cuyama No. 2, consisting of 48,828 acres, was located along the Cuyama River, also west of New Cuyama but east of Cuyama No. 1. It consisted of 11 leagues and was granted in 1846 to Cesario Lataillade, whose heirs patented the grant on January 10, 1879.

Along the western boundary of the Forest, the Sisquoc Grant was given to Maria Antonio Caballero in 1833, and patented by James B. Huie, et al. (35,486 acres) on August 24, 1866.

Moving south along the Forest boundary, the next grant was the Laguna Grant north of Zaca. It consisted of four leagues and was granted in 1845 to Octavio Gutierrez, who patented 48,704 acres on May 17, 1867. Canada de los Pinos, or the College Ranch, was located north of the Santa Ynez Mountains. It consisted of 6 leagues and was granted to the Catholic Church in 1844. The College Ranch included 35,499 acres when patented on February 28, 1861. In this same area was the San Marcos Grant, some 12 miles east of Santa Ynez. It was purchased in 1846 by Richard S. Den and Nicholas A. Den and formerly had been part of the Santa Barbara Mission lands. The Dens claimed 35,573 acres which were patented September 6, 1869.

Also north of the mountains was the Lomas de la Purificacion Grant. It consisted of 3 leagues granted in 1844 to Augustine Janssens, claimant for 13,341 acres, patented April 18, 1871. To the west was the Nojoqui grant, made in 1843 to Raimundo Carrillo, claimant for 13,285 acres and patented September 11, 1869. At the extreme western end of the Forest in the Santa Ynez Mountains was the Las Cruces Grant. It was granted in 1836 to Miguel Cordero who was claimant for 8,888 acres, patented July 7, 1883.

The Nuestra Senora del Refugio Grant was located between the ocean and the Santa Ynez Mountains. It consisted of 6 leagues and was granted to Jose Francisco Ortega in 1795 as a Spanish concession and regranted in 1834 to Antonio Maria Ortega, son of the original claimant. Ortega claimed 26,592 acres, patented July 28, 1886. Just east of the Refugio grant was Canada del Corral. It covered 2 leagues and was granted in 1841 to Jose D. Ortega, claimant for 8,876 acres, patented May 13, 1886.

Continuing east along the coastal shelf was Dos Pueblos, consisting of three leagues granted in 1842 to Nicholas A. Den. Den claimed 15,535 acres, patented February 23, 1877. Next was La Goleta at the town of Goleta. It consisted of one league granted in 1846. La Goleta was the last land grant by Governor Pio Pico, the last Mexican Governor of California. It was made on June 10, 1846, the same day on which the Bear Flag was raised in Sonoma, beginning the end of Mexican rule in California.

East of La Goleta were mission lands. Farther east, the Rincon Grant extended from Carpinteria into the northern part of Ventura County. This grant included Matilija and consisted of one league granted in 1835 to Teodoro Arellanes. Arellanes was claimant for 4,460 acres, patented November 22, 1872.

There were three other grants adjacent to the Forest in Ventura County. Santa Ana, west of Casitas Springs, was granted in 1837 to Crisogono Ayala, et al, claimants for 21,522 acres, patented December 22, 1870. The Ojai Grant of six leagues was made in 1837 to Fernando Tico, claimant for 17,717 acres, patented December 22, 1870. In 1821 Jose de la Guerra y Noriega had tried to obtain the Ojai grant and also San Fernando Mission lands, but failed. The Piru grant had been part of the rancho of the San Fernando Mission.

A final grant near the Forest boundary was in Kern County and was known as San Emigdio. It had been a rancho of Santa Barbara Mission and was granted to Jose Antonio Domingues in 1842. San Emigdio contained four leagues. Claimants for 17,710 acres were Francisco Dominguez, et al, who received a patent April 10, 1886.

While all of these land grants exerted some degree of influence on the Forest, five were perhaps more influential than the others. These were:

- Las Milpitas, adjacent to the modern Monterey Ranger District
- Sisquoc, adjacent to the San Rafael Wilderness
- Los Prietos y Najalayegua, whose western boundary was in the vicinity of the modern Santa Barbara Ranger District Office
- Cuyama No. 1
- Cuyama No. 2

Probably the most interaction between land grant and Forest use in Monterey County occurred around Las Milpitas, granted on May 5, 1838. Las Milpitas included much of the San Antonio River valley. The grant extended from a southeastern boundary adjoining both the San Miguelito and El Piojo grants near the town of Jolon and Mission San Antonio to a point adjacent to the present Forest boundary near a place commonly known as "The Indians." The latter area got its name after secularization of the missions by the Mexican government, when many of the former San Antonio neophytes gathered inside or near the Forest in Reliz Canyon and near the northwestern corner of the Las Milpitas grant. The two locations were bona fide Indian communities. With the advent of American settlers, the latter area became known as "the Indians" or "the Indian Reservation."

After the Civil War, Mr. Atherton, then owner of Las Milpitas, had problems with squatters on his property. Atherton forced out the former soldiers who had taken up residence, but was sympathetic to some Indians living on the property and formally conveyed to them a 100 acre strip at the northwest corner of the grant. (83)

A 1909 report of Forest Supervisors in the California-Nevada district of the Forest Service shows that three Indian families were known to be resident at that time within the Monterey National Forest. These were the Encinales (16 members) and Quintana (3 members) families in the vicinity of The Indians, and the Mora family (3 members), listed as residing to the south along the Nacimiento-Ferguson Road. Dave Mora, presumably from this family, served as a primary informant for the ethnographer John P. Harrington not long after this report was issued.

The Sisquoc Grant influenced the Forest in numerous ways, including restricting homesteading along the Sisquoc River and Manzana Creek. This was one of the last grants made by the Mexican Government. It was granted by Governor Pio Pico on April 18, 1845, to Marie Antonia Domingues de Caballero. In 1851 Francisco Caballero and his wife, Maria Antonia, sold the grant to James B. Huie for $12,500. In the 1880's the acreage came into the possession of Rockwell Stone of San Francisco. A daughter and son inherited the land, but the son's share was acquired through foreclosure by a Mr. William Harris. John T. Porter and Thomas B. Bishop acquired the daughter's interest for cash in 1892. Mr. Harris at first refused to sell his half but did so in 1893. Robert Easton, a relative of the Bishops, came to the ranch as a surveyor in 1899 and later became manager. He held this position for 51 years until the eventual sale of the ranch.

The Sisquoc Ranch was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Green of Los Angeles and Claude Arnold of San Luis Obispo on January 31, 1951. (40) The Santa Barbara News-Press cited another sale in 1952: "James Flood of San Francisco, the new owner of the historic Sisquoc Ranch, was reported last night as planning to operate the vast area as a working cattle ranch." (41) It included the original grant consisting of 35,400 acres, 2,700 acres of the Rancho Tinaquaic, and approximately 3,200 acres of patented government land in Los Padres National Forest. In all, some 41,300 acres were involved.

James Flood was not new to the cattle ranching field in California. He had been the owner of the Santa Margarita Rancho in San Diego County, which was taken over by the United States Government and became the Marine Corps base now known as Camp Pendleton. (42) The Sisquoc Ranch covered both sides of the Sisquoc River. In later years when the gate on the road running up the river through the ranch was closed to the public, road access to the Sisquoc and Manzana area of the Forest Reserve was closed off, locking out the homesteaders who had filed claims above the ranch. In a sense, the location of the Sisquoc grant and the attitude of its owners shaped the western boundary of the San Rafael Wilderness by making homesteading impossible in the area.

Los Prietos y Najalayegua was granted in 1845 to Jose Dominguez, who was claimant for 48,729 acres patented February 19, 1875. This grant is particularly important because it was the only grant completely within the boundaries of the future Forest. When the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake, and Santa Ynez Forest Reserves were created in the late 1800's, they were separated by the lands of Los Prietos y Najalayegua. Later, when the two reserves were combined to include the grant lands, they became Santa Barbara National Forest. Since this happened many years after the grant was first issued, a detailed look at the original grant is necessary.

The name Los Prietos was based on locations at the west and east ends of the grant and is derived from the "borregos prietos", or sheep with dark-colored wool, that were kept at the sheep camp which the Santa Barbara Mission established at the Chumash village of Snois. (33) One of J. P. Harrington's informants, Juan Justo, commented on Los Prietos, "There were many borregos prietos there, hense the Spanish name." (34)

At the east end of the grant was the village of Shnaxalyiwi, or in Spanish, Najalayegua. This was a major village and its "capitan," or village chief, ruled the other villages of the upper Santa Ynez Valley. The north boundary of the grant was the foothills of the San Rafael Mountains, and the southern boundary was the foothills on the north side of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Due to a very poor understanding of the actual physical situation of the grant lands, the early history of this grant is vague. At one time the owners attempted to float the grant over the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains to include large areas of coastal and foothill land. The grant's title history somewhat explains this problem.

On January 14, 1843, Jose Lugo, an invalid soldier who was a squatter on the land, sold his rights to Jose Dominguez for $20 in silver currency and two barrels of aquadiente. These lands were stated to be situated in the Najalayegua grant. (35) Jose Dominguez applied to Governor Pio Pico for a land grant and submitted a diseno (map) of the land he hoped to obtain. He received the grant in September of 1845 and sold the rancho April 17, 1856, to Thomas Cevasco, who in turn sold it to Felipe Arrellanes on December 26, 1856, for $1. On December 1, 1864, Arrellanes sold Najalayegua to C. E. Huse for $100. It was then sold to Thomas A. Scott on March 16, 1865, for $1,000 and finally sold by Scott to Edward J. Pringle on August 13, 1867, for $1. Although Mr. C. E. Huse had sold the property, he maintained control behind-the-scenes for some time. Huse was the promoter of the float of the grant to the south side of the mountain, had a bogus survey prepared which he attempted to pass off as an authorized survey, and filed numerous briefs with the court in response to his and others of his group's claims to the property. Numerous depositions were taken from Jose Dominguez and others as to the history and location of the grant.

About this time Jose Moraga discovered quicksilver on the Santa Ynez River east of Los Prietos. This caused a change in the Huse plans, as he wanted to include the mines in the Najayalegua grant. After several surveys and a long legal battle, the grant was finally surveyed as originally layed out between the mountains along the Santa Ynez River from Los Prietos up to the Najalayegua Canyon. The mines were soon abandoned, and cattle raising proved a poor-paying activity due to the rough land and the many predators in the area. On March 1, 1881, there were only 20 horses and 200 cattle upon the rancho. The old trail to the rancho headquarters ran up what is now called Romero Canyon, which at one time was called Najalayegua Canyon because it contained the trail to the Najalayegua.

At a later time Blue Canyon was also shown on one of the old maps of the grant and called Najalayegua Canyon because the trail ran down it to the mouth of Caliente Canyon at what is now known as the Pendola Forest Service Station. Just south of the station, the foundations of the old Pendola Adobe are still visible. This building was built by the Pendola family on the site of the headquarters of the Najalayegua rancho. In later years the Pendola family of Santa Barbara leased part of the rancho lands for cattle raising, until Gibraltar Dam was built and all grazing was prohibited on lands above the dam.

The remaining two very influential grants were Cuyama No. 1 and Cuyama No. 2. They were located on the north side of the Sierra Madre Mountains in the valley of the Cuyama River, which flows east to west on its way to the ocean. The Cuyama Valley is a large, semi-desert plain extending along each side of the river for a distance of some 30 miles.

Cuyama No. 1, now known as the Spanish Ranch, consisted of 22,193.21 acres. It was granted by Governor Manuel Micheltorena to Jose Maria Royo on April 24, 1843. A Frenchman, Cesario Lataillade, purchased the grant and upon his early death it passed to his widow, Maria Antonia de la Guerra, who subsequently married Don Gaspar Orena. The Spanish Ranch is presently owned by a descendant of the De la Guerra and Orena families, Superior Court Judge John Rickard, a former mayor of Santa Barbara. (36)

Cuyama No. 2, now known as the Russell Ranch, consists of 48,827.50 acres. It was granted by Governor Pio Pico to Don Cesario Lataillade on June 9, 1846.

After California became a state, the owners of land grants had difficulty establishing title to their property. In 1852 the Lataillade title to Cuyama No. 2 was questioned. Alexis Godey, a Frenchman who was a guide for Fremont when he left St. Louis, Missouri, in 1844, squatted on the grant. Godey had met Jesus Cordova while Fremont was camped on Caliente Creek and again in 1850. Godey asked Cordova about vacant lands in the area, and Cordova showed Godey the Cuyama No. 2 Grant, which was then in dispute and uninhabited. Mr. Godey squatted on the land and Jesus Cordova went to work for him as his majordomo. It took over 20 years for the heirs to perfect title to the grant. When title was perfected in 1879, Alexis Godey, who had been squatting on the land, had built an adobe house and was running large herds of cattle, was forced to vacate the lands of the grant. Godey's time in the area is remembered in placenames, the spelling corrupted to "Goode" on contemporary maps. When Maria Antonia died the heirs sold the remainder of the grant to the Cebrian family. (38)

Senator George C. Perkins bought 7,700 acres of the Cuyama No. 2 Grant in 1906. He was head of Perkins Associates of San Francisco, a corporation which made investments in land. He paid $10,000 for the property. "Perkins was the Republican U.S. Senator from California from 1893 to 1915. At that time he could have purchased Catalina Island for the same price, but after considerable debate, decided on the Cuyama piece." (39) The land is currently owned by Mr. Hub Russell, who makes his home at the location of the old ranch headquarters and operates the ranch both for agriculture and cattle raising.

All of the Mexican land grants around the boundaries of the Forest exerted an influence on the future Forest reserve. Cattle grazing on the grants often spilled over onto lands of the reserve. For some of the ranches grazing on Forest land was an economic necessity; this is still true today. In later years some owners of the grants closed their gates, shutting off public access and isolating small homesteads located above the grants on future Forest lands. This was especially true of the Sisquoc Grant and the portion of the old Cuyama Grant that became the Spanish Ranch.

The Mexican Land Grant period extending from 1822 to 1846 led to some 68 grants of land in the tri-counties (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura) and Kern County. Looking at the pattern of these grants, it is interesting to note that, except for the year 1837 when some eight grants were given, most of the early years had from one to five grants per year bestowed. Then beginning in 1843 the number increased dramatically. There were eleven grants in 1843, decreasing to four in 1844, then rising to twelve in 1845. In the last year, 1846, eleven grants were authorized. At first few grants were given, but as the Mexican Government realized that time was running out and Americans would soon take over the state, they attempted to get as much of the land into private hands as possible.

The rancho era reached its hey-day shortly after the discovery of gold created a ready market for beef cattle among miners. Before, the only market had been for the hides and tallow. In the late 1850's the market for cattle at the mines began to decrease. Then during the extended drought of the early 1860's, most of the cattle died on the range for lack of feed and water. Thus ended forever the rancho period in California.

Shortly after the beginning of the rancho period, a very important decision was made that helped bring about the end of the Mission Period and escalated what has been called the Rancho Period. With the increased number of colonists coming into California and a large number of soldiers being mustered out of service, there was a growing demand for land near the presidios and pueblos. Most of the best land was being held by the missions for the Indians. But now, after nearly 50 years of Spanish and Mexican "education", the Californios were beginning to believe that the Indians should be able to take care of themselves if they were ever to be able to do so. The Mexican Government had long cast its eye on the Pious Fund which produced about $50,000 a year, and had been set apart as a fund for the propagation of the true faith. The Mexican Congress had several times confiscated portions of the fund, but not until Santa Ana became president did anyone have the nerve to take over the entire fund. This cut off most of the funds for the missions. From then on, the Fathers had to rely on the sale of mission products to support their work.

When Spain established the mission system it was intended to continue in operation only until the natives had become "civilized" and could take their place in the plan of colonization of the new land. Now the Mexican Congress decided that the Indians should be free and assume responsibility for their own destiny. To bring this about the Congress in 1824 and 1826 passed laws manumitting the Indians and suspending the pay of priests. It soon became clear that the Indians were not yet civilized in the sense used by the mission Fathers. Many returned to the mountains and resorted to various crimes against the establishment in order to survive. In about a year's time the law had become disastrous in its effects and was repealed. Most of the Indians returned to their former conditions and things went along much as they had before the manumitting laws were put into effect.

Pressure on the mission lands became even stronger. In 1833 General Jose Figueroa arrived and attempted to draw some order out of the chaos that existed by establishing two separate governments, one in the northern and the other in the southern portion of California, each trying to control the destiny of the colony.

In August, 1834, Governor Figueroa issued a directive of 23 parts which when carried out would bring into force the secularization law of August 17, 1833. If the 23 directives had been carried out as set forth in Governor Figueroa's instructions, the event might not have had the tumultuous effect that secularization created within the mission community. In most cases the lay persons appointed to carry out the division of the wealth of the missions had more interest in obtaining as much of the wealth as possible for their own pockets as in seeing that an equitable distribution was made to the neophytes. In a short time the missions were plundered of their wealth. The long built-up system of management and production collapsed, and with no means of support the neophytes deserted the missions, some to work on the ranchos and others to flee to the mountains and prey upon the ranchos. Many of the missions fell into disrepair and were eventually abandoned or sold to lay persons, and passed out of the control of the church.

With the complete breakdown of the mission system, it remained for the pueblos and ranchos under the poor protection of the presidios to carry on the day-to-day life of the community until the arrival of the North Americans.

2.3 Early American Period

In 1826 Jedediah Strong Smith, just 26 years old, became the first American to lead an overland party from the United States Territory to Spanish California. The party came into California via the Mojave River and eventually reached San Gabriel Mission. Here the good Father Jose Barnardo Sanchez made Smith and his party welcome. However, when acting Governor Echeandia at San Diego learned of Smith's arrival at the mission, he forbade the new arrivals to continue up the coast as they had planned and ordered them to return by the same route over which they had entered California. After restocking his group, Smith pretended to start back down the Mojave River, but soon turned northwest crossing the Tehachapi Mountains and entering the Central Valley. Progressing up the east side of the valley, he attempted to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains at two locations but was driven back by the deep snow pack. Finally, he and two other men were able to cross the Sierras, becoming the first persons of European descent to cross the mountains.

While Jedediah Smith did not enter any portion of the Forest, he did open up the land route from the United States into California and laid the groundwork for those who followed. His glowing reports of the land and its abundant game inspired other Americans to explore the land west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

2.3.1 Conquest Years

For almost forty years after Jedediah Smith brought back his glowing accounts of the land to the west, Americans from the east filtered into California. At first there were just a few deserters from passing ships visiting the coast to trade. Later overland expeditions from the United States began to push into Oregon to the north, and some of these emigrants branched off to enter California. One such early pioneer family was the Kelsey family.

The Kelseys were former neighbors of Mr. John Marsh, who left Jackson County, Missouri, in 1837 and established a ranch near the mouth of the San Joaquin River. A letter he sent home started the Kelseys on their trip to California. In May of 1841 they set out with a group of relatives who were going to Oregon. The group split up, and Benjamin and Nancy Kelsey and their young baby went with the Bidwell-Bartleson party, the first organized party to attempt to reach California by the overland route. Ascending the Sierra Nevada Mountains they reached the crest on Nancy's birthday, August 1, 1841, and headed down toward the San Joaquin River. After great difficulties they reached Mr. Marsh's ranch on October 4, 1841.

It was while the Kelsey's were in Sonoma ". . .on June 14, 1846, that the first Bear Flag was made and used (for proclamation of the short-lived California Republic). It was a field of white with a bear in the center, a star in the upper left, and a red band on the bottom. While the design was the effort of several people, Nancy provided the cloth and stitched together the first Bear Flag. Among those who designed the flag was William Todd (nephew of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln). . ." (43) After traveling over most of the west, Ben Kelsey died in Los Angeles and Nancy moved to northern Santa Barbara County to be near her daughter. Nancy's last days were spent in a cabin in Kelsey Canyon on the northern slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains and within the Los Padres National Forest boundary. She died of cancer on August 10, 1896, and is buried in Kelsey Canyon between her daughter and a small granddaughter. Her simple monument reads: Nancy Kelsey 1823-1896 FIRST WHITE WOMAN TO CROSS THE PLAINS INTO CALIFORNIA.

The Bear Flag Revolt was a result of the unstable conditions existing in California at that time. It brought into action a man who was to lead California from a Mexican province to an American state, John C. Fremont. Fremont had been dispatched by the United States Government on three expeditions across the plains to make a reconnaissance of the western United States; in fact, there was the understanding that if the United States and Mexico should become involved in a war, he would be available to protect the interests of the United States so that no foreign country such as England would attempt to annex the California territory.

On July 7, 1846, the American Flag was raised over the customs house and other public buildings at Monterey; on July 8 it was unfurled at San Francisco and two days later at Sonoma. On August 12, the official news that the United States and Mexico were at war was brought to Monterey by the United States ship "Warren." Commodore Stockton sailed south from Monterey with a force to bring about the pacification of the territory. On his way south he stopped in Santa Barbara for a short time and left a force of ten marines under Lieutenant Theodore Tablot. Continuing on south he and Fremont succeeded in capturing Los Angeles and San Diego, leaving small garrisons at each location. The rest of the army returned to Monterey by ship.

General Jose Maria Flores organized an uprising in the southern portion of California. General Flores raised a large force of native Californians and invaded Los Angeles, forcing the greatly outnumbered Lieutenant Gillespie to surrender the pueblo to the forces of General Flores. Flores sent Don Manuel Garcias and two hundred men to regain Santa Barbara. He arrived at the salt ponds (Bird Refuge) east of town and issued an ultimatum that the Lieutenant surrender or face death. Eugene Russell, a soldier under Talbot's command, refused to surrender and convinced the others to support him. They fled under cover of darkness up Mission Canyon and took up a defensive position above the old Mission Dam. The Californios set fire to the chaparral in an attempt to drive the Americans out. After a period of time the Talbot party, seeing no American forces or ships arriving to rescue them, decided to make their way north. A local Indian guided them via the Mono-Santa Barbara Canyon trail through the San Rafael Mountains of the Los Padres until they reached the Central Valley.

The trail which they followed was the same one that Pablo de Portilla had used a little over 20 years before to return the neophytes to the Santa Barbara Mission after the 1824 revolt. The party worked their way up to Monterey, arriving on November 9, 1846. Once again a military group had traveled across the Forest lands. Almost 20 years later this same trail would again be used by a military unit. This time it would be the United States Army stationed at Fort Tejon.

Fremont organized a force of about 428 men in the Monterey area, part of them his own rangers who had crossed the plains with him. In November 1846, they set out for the south. Due to the rainy season the trails were deep with mud and the rivers swollen, making progress slow. Descending the Cuesta Grade they entered San Luis Obispo and obtained a number of sheep for food. They also captured some Californios who had broken their patrol and taken up arms against the United States. It was decided to execute a member of the Pico family as an example, but Fremont was convinced by a number of women who visited his headquarters that he should not carry out the order.

Continuing southward Fremont entered Santa Barbara County and camped near the Foxen Adobe on Rancho Tinaquaic. From there he proceeded down Alamo Pintado Creek to cross the Santa Ynez River and San Marcos Rancho. He ascended the north side of the pass on the old trail which ran up what is now called Fremont Ridge (and currently houses the Fremont Fuelbreak). Across the canyon from the present right-of-way of Highway 154, he encountered heavy rain as a southeastern storm was raging. Although it was Christmas, the party was forced to camp near the top of the pass and morale was low. The next day they descended by what later became the Slippery Rock Stage Coach Road.

The wet and bedraggled troops spent the night under the "Fremont Oak", just north of Patterson Avenue in the foothills above Goleta. The next day he marched his troops into Santa Barbara and recaptured the town without firing a shot.

From the visit of Fremont to the Foxen Rancho, the folktale has grown that the Mexicans were in ambush at Gaviota Pass to drop rocks on the Americans as they went through. Hattie Stone Benefield, in her book "For the Good of the Country," states that Fremont undoubtedly had a very good reason for not mentioning taking the San Marcos Pass route to Santa Barbara in his "Memoirs." (44) However, the simple fact is that the San Marcos Pass route was considerably shorter, with a cart road over the mountains, while at Gaviota just a very rough trail ran through the pass until 1861 when a road was finally cut through. Another persistent rumor is that Fremont abandoned one of his cannons on the way over the pass, and numerous individuals have conducted extensive searches for it in vain.

The San Marcos Pass--Alamo Pintado Canyon--Foxen Canyon route soon became the main route of travel across Santa Barbara County and eventually became the stagecoach route serving Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. The first stage to use this route was that of the Coast Line Stage Company owned by Flint Bixby Company of Los Cerritos. They began operations in 1869 carrying passengers between San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. The line ceased operations in 1877.

Although most people are acquainted with the gold rush which followed on the heels of the American conquest, few people realize that the first gold strike in California was not actually the Sutters Mill strike at Coloma in 1849. The first discovery of gold was made almost six years before on March 9, 1842. Francisco Lopez, a native Californio, was out searching for stray horses and stopped on the bank of a small creek in a canyon which later became known as Placerita Canyon. The scene of his discovery was a little over three miles east of the present city of Newhall, in the westerly part of the Angeles National Forest. It was located near San Francisquito, about 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles. While letting the horses graze, Lopez dug up some wild onions growing near the stream and found a small nugget in the rootlets of the onion bulbs. Further searching disclosed more gold. Lopez took the gold to authorities who confirmed its worth.

After the discovery Lopez, with others, began to search for other placers in the area, leading to several discoveries within the Forest in northeastern Ventura County. The following year Lopez made a second discovery of gold in San Feliciano Canyon not far from the scene of the first discovery. Mexican miners from Sonora worked the placers until 1846, when the unsettled conditions of the California conquest brought about an end to most of the placering.

These and the surrounding mines were called the San Fernando Placers and were worked until the gold rush of 1849 drew all the miners from the San Fernando area north to the new discovery. As the northern mines became worked out and the excitement of the Kern River discoveries of 1854 subsided, miners drifted back to the San Fernando placers. The mines became productive again and "Historian J. M. Guinn tells of a gang of Indians working for Francisco Garcia who took out $65,000 in 1855. One nugget worth $1,900 was found." (45) For several years there was activity until the best locations had been exhausted. Today weekend prospectors still wield their pans or more sophisticated means of sampling the gravel beds of the area. Occasionally someone's diligent search is rewarded by finding a nugget missed by the early miners.

The great gold rush brought to southern California a new market for the vast herds the rancheros owned. Before this time just the hides and tallow had been of value for trade to the visiting ships that sailed up and down the coast trading with the native Californios. Now a whole new market opened up for live beef to be driven north to the mines to feed the hungry gold miners. In the 1850's large herds were gathered and driven north to be sold at high prices. This brought sudden prosperity to the rancheros. Their way of living became extravagant in the extreme. Trading ships brought all kinds of luxury items which the Californios bought with no thought to the future.

The rancheros' extravagances and the slowing down of the northern markets began to have an effect on the people in the early 1860's. The Americans introduced eastern cattle which were superior to the rangy, half-wild cattle of the rancheros. Then nature stepped in to add to the problems facing the California cattlemen. The winter of 1861-62 was one of the wettest seasons ever recorded in the records of California weather. Floods destroyed large amounts of the property of the rancheros, houses of adobe melted down to mud, trails were washed out, roads were obliterated and and streams became raging torrents washing away cattle or causing them to become mired down in the mud and quicksand deposited over the lower areas of the land.

The season of the great flood was followed by a great drought, the worst in recorded history in the State of California. Starting with the first month in the year 1862, no rain fell for the duration of the year. In 1863 the winter rains did not arrive, and nothing more than sprinkles fell until late in the winter of 1864. The cattle ate all the available grass and the range became bare with nothing but dust devils marching across the parched ground. Streams and springs that had never before gone dry failed, and the thirst-crazed cattle died in droves. Ranchers cut down limbs of oak trees to attempt to provide some feed for the stock, but this was of little value. The tax rolls when the drought began in 1862 listed over 200,000 head of cattle for the County of Santa Barbara, but when the drought finally passed in 1864, less than 500 were left alive on the range. One sale of 5,000 head of cattle took place in Santa Barbara County for 37.5 cents per head at the height of the great drought. (46)

Many of the rancheros were left in deep debt. Credit at high rates of interest had been easy to obtain, and until the drought one could just round up some of the wild cattle from the range to use in paying off the debt. Afterward, things were changed. Americans held many of the mortgages and they began to foreclose, taking land (which the Californios had in abundance) to satisfy the debts. Up until now the land had meant little to the native rancheros. The Americans drifted south from the playing-out placer mines of the north, and large numbers of immigrants began to enter the state each year, making the long trip across the plains in search of new farm lands.

Under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States was to honor the properties of the Californios which had been distributed to them by the Federal Government of Mexico. It soon became apparent that many grants had been made by the Mexican Governor just before the takeover by the Americans to reward faithful supporters and to prevent the land from falling into the hands of the conquerers. A United States Land Commission was set up, and the Californios were required to prove the validity of their land claims and establish the exact boundaries. Because land was of so little value until this point, the boundaries of a grant were often very vague--an oak tree, a cow skull on a pile of rocks, a creek, and in come cases a mountain range. As had already occurred in the eastern United States, government surveyors began surveying the land into townships, ranges and sections. This was important because some orderly development of the land was necessary to accommodate the large numbers of immigrants arriving from the east.

In 1862 the Homestead Act was passed as an inducement to the settlement of vacant government lands. While some settlers took advantage of the Act in the early 1860's, its major effect on the Forest came at a later date and will be discussed in more detail in the next section of this document.

With the increased Anglo population in southern California beginning in the mid to late 1860's, greater interest was shown in the mountainous area of the region. At first this was only an occasional exploring or hunting trip into the mountains. However, exploration of the backcountry in the late 19th century also took on scientific and pseudo-scientific importance in some cases.

One example of early scientific use of the Forest involved the northern part of the Santa Lucia Range. This area came to be recognized as a superior location for astronomical observations because of the low levels of atmoshperic disturbance. Expeditions including astronomers visited the Santa Lucias during this period, and scientific interest has continued into the modern era. Within the last 10 years, a proposal to build an observatory on Junipero Serra Peak (the "Dark Sky" or Lick Observatory) was stalled due to environmental and cultural concerns, but the Chews Ridge Observatory of the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy is in operation today.

On the pseudo-scientific side, the now-notorious Reverend Stephen Bowers made archeological and geological expeditions into the Forest in the 1870's. Bowers made several trips through portions of the San Rafael Mountains, up the Sisquoc River and Manzana Creek, along the upper Santa Ynez River, and up Mono Creek in 1877, searching for Indian village sites to excavate. On June 4, 1877, he camped with David Brown, near the present Forest Service Davy Brown Campground. On June 15, Bowers and Uncle Davy Brown, whom he reported to be 77 years old at the time, made a trip up the river to look at a village site. This was about seven years before other references to Davy Brown's camp on Manzana Creek.

Bowers also visited the Frazier Mountain area of the Mt. Pinos Ranger District in his capacity as an avocational geologist. In his diary Reverend Bowers mentions numerous people as living in the area of his travels, none of which later appear as permanent residents. (47) These people were probably prospectors, hunters and trappers who visited the mountains but left no permanent developments to mark their passing.

Some of these early trips into the backcountry were primarily recreational in nature. An example of this kind of exploring trip was one taken on August 1, 1877, by the author Anson Augustus Boyce with friends, Judge Ord and Mrs. Shedd, the latter an assayer of metal and acting superintendent of the quicksilver mines over the Santa Ynez Mountains. They crossed the Santa Ynez Mountains by the east fork of Mission Creek (Rattlesnake Canyon) and descended to the mines. After camping for the night, they followed a trail farther to the east, which crossed over the Santa Ynez range again and brought them out in Montecito. (48) These exploring expeditions to the mountains continued to be popular. In 1893 Julius Starke published an account of a trip up the coast to Gaviota, then inland to Nojoqui, across the Santa Ynez Valley to near Zaca Lake and on to the Sisquoc, and finally to the Cuyama River, which he followed while collecting specimens of wood for woodworking.

Later Starke tells of hunting trips up the Mono to Big Pine Mountain and fishing trips into the Santa Cruz Creek area. His writings are found in a publication aimed at the tourist, called "Art Treasures The Yosemite Santa Barbara" (1893). (49)

In 1885 a Mr. John Spence cut a trail from Big Pine Mountain down to the head of the Sisquoc River. This trail was used by Lorenzo G. Yates in 1895 to explore the San Rafael Mountains. Mr. Yates crossed the Santa Ynez Mountains via the Cold Springs Trail. He then followed up Mono Creek and crossed the Loma Pelona down into Indian Creek, went through the Devil's Flower Garden to Big Pine Mountain and finally down its north slope to Bear Camp on the Sisquoc River. (50)

Not all the camping expeditions were into the Santa Barbara backcountry. Interest was also shown in the mountainous portions of northern Ventura County. An article by John R. G. Hassard in "The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine" for November 1886 - April 1887 gives an excellent account of the day-by-day events that occurred on an extended camping trip. The group started from Ojai and proceeded up Matilija Creek to camp and fish. From there they crossed over into Cherry Canyon and down to the Sespe River. Ascending Pine Mountain, they camped on the summit for several weeks. A good idea of conditions as they existed when the article was written is given and at the end a cost accounting is given for the trip. One of the reasons for the article was to inform others who might be interested in a camping experience of the joys and costs of a trip. (51)

The expeditions of people interested in hunting, fishing and camping introduced many of the newly arrived North Americans to the potential of the mountainous areas of southern California. Most of the early expeditions followed the larger canyons up into the mountains, and the participants noticed that on the sides of these valleys there were often stream terraces. In some areas near the tops of some of the mountain ranges were large grassy areas called potreros. Here was government land open to homesteading that could be farmed or used for cattle grazing. A new era was about to begin, one in which man was not just a casual visitor to the Forest, but in which he could move in, settle down and establish roots in the form of a home by taking up a government homestead claim.

2.3.2 Homestead Period

The Homestead Act of 1862 opened land for settlement. While some settlers availed themselves of the Act beginning in 1862, it was not until the early 1880's that the majority of people began to enter the future Forest area and establish homesteads. And many claims that have shaped the mosaic of public and private lands in some areas within the Forest were filed under the Forest Homestead Act of 1906.

After initial filing of a claim, the settler had complete ownership following five years residence or after six months with payment of $1.50 an acre. Each claim was for 160 acres, a quarter section of free government land. In some cases the head of the household would file for a homestead patent on 160 acres which became the home place. Additional adult members of the family would file cash entry claims on adjacent 160 acre parcels to increase the total family holdings. Others located claims, paid individuals to file, and after the six months were up, the filer completed the entry and sold the claim to the original locater. The current pattern of Forest "inholdings" is primarily a result of Homestead Act claims.

Southern Monterey County Coast

The first homesteaders on the Big Sur coast arrived in the late 1850's or early 1860's. Settlement began in the vicinity of the present community of Big Sur, near the Rancho El Sur land grant, and spread south along the coast rather slowly. Homesteaders reached Big Creek in the late 1870's; the activities of the first family there, the Dolans, and other early Big Creek residents are chronicled in an oral history funded by the Big Sur Land Trust. (85).

Another concentration of homesteads was located in the Pacific Valley area. The Pacific Valley Cabin, which is currently in the process of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, was built in the latter part of the homestead period, around 1915, and is a good example of the quality of workmanship invested in many of the homesteaders' residences.

Other clusters of homesteads on the Monterey coast side of the Santa Lucias were found in the vicinity of the Los Burros Mining District town of Manchester and further south around San Carpoforo Creek. The latter area has been researched and documented in a manuscript by a current resident, Mary Alice Baldwin. (83)

The Monterey County coast and its homesteads were profoundly affected by William Randolph Hearst and his Hearst Sunical Land and Packing Corporation. As early as the 1920's the Hearst Company began buying up homesteads north from the Hearst San Simeon Ranch. Hearst held much of the southern Monterey County coast until 1940, when the property was sold to the U.S. Army (who used the area, considered similar in some ways to the Normandy coast, for training troops to make beach landings and mountain marches). (83) In 1957 the Forest Service acquired most of the Army holdings on the coast side of the Santa Lucia Range, and opened up what is now an extremely popular recreation area to public recreational use. This exchange was followed by a virtual explosion in vehicle access camping in the early 1960's. Hearst's acquisition of the coastal homesteads and their subsequent sale to the U.S. Army changed the course of land use in that area and was instrumental in allowing full public enjoyment of the splendid recreational setting.

Monterey County Interior

Scattered homesteading took place on the inland side of the Santa Lucias. Jamesburg is named for a homesteader named John James. Pat Springs and Comings Camps on Big Pine Ridge are named for the individuals or families who homesteaded at those locations. The now destroyed Higgins Cabin and placenames such as Higgins Creek in Indian Valley attest to the penetration of homesteading into what is now the Ventana Wilderness. And a story is told about a Mr. Sullivan, who owned property at Horse Bridge (near the confluence of Willow Creek and the Arroyo Seco River), and would not sell his property because of the "big money" interests who wanted to put a road through the area. That road would have linked the Arroyo Seco area to the coast and transected the future Wilderness area.

There are also stories that the Encinales children filed homestead claims around The Indians Ranch, but did not know of the requirements for "proving up" on a claim and thus lost the property. (83)

San Luis Obispo County, Lopez Canyon and the Upper Cuyama

In the San Luis Obispo County portion of the Forest, homesteaders followed up the Salinas River and settled in the Pozo area and on to the east toward La Panza. Because of the scarce water resources of this area, most of the homesteaders depended more on ranching than on farming for their livelihood.

Farther south settlers moved up the canyon of Lopez Creek east of Arroyo Grande, and even into the upper reaches of the Huasna River and Alamo Creek to establish claims. Along the banks of the Cuyama River where it passes through the west end of the San Rafael Mountains on its way to the ocean, several French families established claims. Some of these early families are still represented in the area. Peter Laborde came to Santa Barbara County in 1888 and "proved up" on his land claims in 1898. With Bernard Permasse he constructed a large adobe house, the ruins of which still stand on the south bank of the Cuyama River. Permasse later moved a short distance down river to establish his own ranch, a portion of which is now owned by Jean Garcin. At one time John Libeu and Pier Cazenare also had claims filed in this area.

Sisquoc River Valley

South of the Cuyama River the next large river valley to give access to the San Rafael Mountains is the Sisquoc. The lower portion of the river runs through government land which was settled because of its good farming possibilities. Above this area on the river was the Sisquoc Land Grant which later became the Sisquoc Ranch. Above the ranch was more government land, within the current Forest boundaries, which was open to homesteading.

The most extensive homesteading in this area began in the Santa Barbara County portion of the San Rafael Mountains in the 1880's. The Sisquoc River and its two main tributaries, La Brea Canyon and Manzana Creek, were the scenes of this activity. This area deserves special mention, both because the homestead activity was more extensive than in any other region of the Forest and because it gives an insight into conditions existing in the area when the Forest Reserve was established. Therefore, the names of the homesteaders and the general location of their claims are dealt with in some detail.

The mouth of La Brea Canyon is within the Sisquoc Grant, and for some distance above the tar seeps that give the canyon its name, the land was not open to homesteading. The canyon was open enough most of its length so that a wagon road could be constructed along the terraces above the stream. It crossed back and forth many times as it ascended the canyon. Water flowed the length of the canyon in the winter and at many locations year round. Claims were filed on the larger terraces within the canyon.

Beginning at the canyon mouth, the first claim was that of Wayne and Hannah Miller. A chimney of creek stones and boards grown around by an oak tree are all that remain of the homestead. Hannah sold her claim to the Sisquoc Ranch.

Continuing up the canyon into the Forest is the junction of the North and South Forks of La Brea Canyon. At this junction is located what is now known as the Goodchild Ranch. The site was first claimed by John James Holloway and his mother, Nancy, who came into the area in 1868. They built a house of alder logs which is still standing. The property was sold to James Wilson Goodchild. The ranch passed to his son, Ralph who lived on it all of his life. It then passed to his son, Robert, who as a third generation member of the family has spent his entire life on the ranch. At the present time, because there is no heir to take over its management, the ranch is up for sale and will pass out of the family. At this site are the original log house, a large old barn and Ralph's house. No claims other than the Goodchild's were ever filed on the South Fork of the La Brea.

The Goodchilds added several parcels up the North Fork to their original claim to complete the present ranch holdings. One of these claims was that of Barnarel Martinez, who originally came from the town of Garey, and is now the home of Bobby (Robert) Goodchild.

Continuing on up the canyon of the North Fork, one comes next to Barrel Springs. The claim of William S. McHenry was located here. His claim dates from 1891. Just a short distance up stream was the claim of William's brother, Dan. Nothing remains of either of these claims. A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was later established at Barrel Springs.

Next up the canyon at the mouth of Bear Creek was the claim of Charles B. Dutcher. He filed his claim in 1897 and built a frame house, barn, blacksmith shop and corral, all of which are still standing. In later years Charles sold the ranch to his son-in-law, Dot Webber, who operated it as a ranch for many years. He in turn sold it to Jean Garcin.

A short distance further up La Brea Canyon, on the west side in a meadow, is the site of the Jacob Kieviet homestead. He received his patent in 1896 and reconveyed it to the government in 1906. A large stone wall marks the site of his claim.

The next claim was that of Freshouers. Today a small stone wall marks the site. Just above this claim was that of John V. Jessee. It was located under a large old oak tree; he never proved up on the claim, but used the site as a hunting camp. It became known as Jessee Camp and was maintained as a Forest Service public camp until just a few years ago when it was abandoned due to uncontrollable vandalism at the site.

Just below the junction of Smith and Kerry Canyons was the homestead of Jake Robinson, now known as Wagon Camp. At one time this was the end of the wagon road up La Brea Canyon. All of the old-time hunters would come this far by wagon and then pack on up to their respective hunting camps. Stone walls and a historic trash midden are all that remain at the site.

Following up Kerry Canyon one comes to a side canyon from the east named Flores Canyon. Further up this side canyon are the remains of an old stone chimney, now just a pile of rocks. This has been reported to be the site of a claim by the Kerry family or the Flores family. No information is available in the records to prove which is correct. Roque Canyon branches off Flores Canyon, and near its head are the remains of an old sheep camp run by a sheepherder named Roque, for whom the canyon is named.

Back at Wagon Camp, if one follows up the north or Smith Fork, one comes to the site of the claim of William Smith. A short distance above it near a good spring is the claim of E. W. Anser, who was William Smith's father-in-law. A few stone walls and iron objects driven into the large oak tree near the creek are all that remain of the homestead. This was the extent of the homestead claims established in La Brea Canyon.

The Goodchild and Webber Ranches dominated the range in La Brea Canyon. In later years a road was constructed by Dutcher and Jessee up Rattlesnake Canyon to connect with a road up Colson Canyon. They had begun operating a barite mine on the east side of the canyon a short distance above Wagon Camp. The ore was hauled out over the new road for a short period of time until the mine was abandoned due to foreign barite being cheaper than the local product. This road and later the one constructed up the canyon all the way to the Sierra Madre Road at Miranda Pine Mountain opened the upper portion of La Brea Canyon to recreation.

All of the homesteaders have gone today except the Goodchilds and Garcins, who have consolidated many of the properties into their present cattle operations. During the spring and again during hunting season, the area is still used by the residents of the north county for recreation. Although transportation methods have greatly improved, the types of use in the area remain virtually the same as when the first Anglo visitors began moving into La Brea Canyon.

Returning to the Sisquoc River and continuing on up through the grant, one again comes to government land above the grant which was open to homesteading. A wagon road ran up the river, crossing it many times and giving the homesteaders a way to get to and from Santa Maria, their source of supplies and a market for their produce. During the early years of homesteading up the river, the owners of the Sisquoc ranch did not object to the use of this road, which was the lifeline of the homesteaders. In the early 1900's the ranch began to object to the use of the road and finally locked the gate. The homesteaders who were still living up the river above the grant were forced out because of lack of access to their homesteads.

Following the river road one can trace the homesteads, moving east from the Sisquoc Ranch. The Tunnell brothers filed next to each other. First was the claim of George Tunnell on a small terrace on the north side of the Sisquoc River. Today all that remains is the pile of rock that was the chimney. The floods have washed away most of the terrace of his homestead. When the Sisquoc Ranch boundaries were surveyed by Robert Easton, he found that the land was inside the Sisquoc Ranch, so Tunnell sold his rights to the property and moved away at a very early date.

The second brother was William H. Tunnell. He built his house a short distance farther up the river than George. When the north boundary of the Sisquoc Ranch was surveyed, a portion of William's homestead was found to be just outside the ranch, but the house and much of the best land was inside the boundary of the ranch. In 1899 the William Tunnell homestead was also sold to the Sisquoc Ranch. Because the house was in good condition the ranch used it as a line cabin, and it is still standing today, used for that purpose. Upstairs on the south side of the house is a doorway that opens into thin air. The room into which the door was originally intended to lead was never built after the ranch took over the property. Across the river at the location of the ranch, a riffel of white rock formed numerous pools, so the area was long known for its good fishing. On the wall at the back porch of the house are the outlines of large fish together with the names and dates of the anglers who caught them. Today the riffels are mostly covered up with a deep layer of sand, gravel and rock due to the filling in of the river channel. An old map of the Sisquoc Ranch dated 1882 shows the "Turner cabin" located near the George Tunnell site, but there was no physical evidence of that cabin in 1980.

Walter H. Robinson obtained a tract of land just up stream from the William Tunnell ranch in March of 1897. Above him on the river at the mouth of Horse Gulch (the old maps called it Brush Creek) was the claim of W. K. Hobson who obtained a patent in 1885. W. K. (Billy) Hobson was the husband of Eliza J. Tunnell, the sister of George and William Tunnell. Later he sold the land to Edward Everett Forrester, better known as Ed or Whispering Ed. The latter name came from the fact that he had a booming voice that carried over a long distance. Ed developed his homestead at the mouth of the gulch and added additional parcels until he had a large holding. He developed irrigation from the gulch and planted a large orchard which the river later washed away. His wife was Emily Malinda Wells, a member of the Wells family about whom we shall soon hear more.

At the present time rock walls, a tall stone chimney, old farm machinery, and a historic midden mark the location of Ed Forrester's homestead. Across Horse Gulch up on a little ridge top is a walled-in area of fieldstone and mortar that contains the grave of Ed's mother, Mrs. George W. (Cassandra Pinnick) Forrester. Also buried near her grave are two Calderon boys who died of typhoid. Ed built up a rather extensive ranch, but after several problems, he reconveyed the holdings back to the government for an in lieu selection of his choice. At that time, 1900, irrigation was developing in the Imperial Valley and the area was being opened up to settlement. Ed took his selection in desert land in that valley and moved by wagon, driving his cattle along the road all the way to his new land in 1901.

Due to land exchanges and the location of the final survey of the Sisquoc ranch land, the Forrester homesite lies just within the eastern boundary of the ranch. Since the days when Robert Easton commissioned the first survey of the grant boundary, there has been contention about where the corner of the grant was and where the lines were. Numerous surveys have not settled this problem. Recently, the Bureau of Land Management did an extensive survey of the area which did not settle the question. The old homesteaders used to say that every time Robert Easton did a new survey, he tried to take some more of their land away from them. In the end most of them sold out, so that he finally did get most of the land.

Horse Gulch is a side tributary of the Sisquoc River. It runs north to drain the south slope of the Sierra Madre Range in the northern part of Santa Barbara County. Up this gulch a level area of land was homesteaded prior to 1894 by Mr. Fred Carver, who filed a claim and began to establish a ranch. The following notices appear in the Santa Maria Times: January 12, 1895, "Mr. Elliott has bought the Fred Carver ranch and is making the dirt fly in Horse Gulch." January 26, "Mr. Elliott has been storm bound in Horse Gulch for the past week." April 6, 1895, "William Elliott intends going into the bee business." May 14, "E. E. Forrester and W. H. Elliott have gone to Santa Barbara on business. On their return Mr. Elliott intends opening a photography gallery in Santa Maria. We wish him much success." This is the last mention in the paper about Horse Gulch and Mr. Elliott. (52)

Continuing on up the Sisquoc River east of the mouth of Horse Gulch one crosses a large, low flat area. A claim was filed on this site by a person named John Miller according to Mr. Davis, an early resident of the community. Miller did not prove up on his claim.

The old wagon road ascends a mesa called Wheat Mesa on the north side of the river. On the flat top of the mesa on the northwest a pile of stone is visible which was at one time a chimney. Over the mesa edge is an old dump of broken purple glass and some soldered, rusting tin cans. This is all that remains of the homestead of Hiram Perserved Wheat, the patriarch of the Sisquoc homestead community. "Old Man Wheat" (as he was commonly known), the Wells, and the Forresters all came from Potawanie County, Kansas. These families were related by intermarriage. Wheat was head of the group and practiced faith-healing. He believed in the laying on of hands and followed a strict diet. Some of the things on the taboo list were pork, all animal fats and milk. They used coconut oil for cooking. Numerous folk tales are told about the rather unusual methods he used to effect some of his supposed cures. The Wheat daughters married into the Wells and Twitchell families. In later years, Hiram moved to Oceano where he spent his last years trying to build a group of disciples. Wheat Peak, directly across the Sisquoc River from the Manzana schoolhouse, is named in his honor.

On the east end of the mesa is the H. P. Wells homestead. At one time there was a house, barn and numerous outbuildings. Now nothing remains except the foundations and the fireplace chimney. A short distance to the west of the ruins is a small, fenced-in plot with a small marble gravestone bearing the inscription: Bessie, daughter of H. P. Wells Aug. 1, 1902-Oct. 14, 1902.

From the Wells homestead the wagon road crossed the Sisquoc River to the mouth of Manzana Creek. The Manzana School was built on a mesa southwest of this junction in 1893, since the Olive School down the river at the mouth of Foxen Canyon was too distant for the children of the homesteaders. In that year meeting was held and a board of trustees chosen: Adolph Willmann, Ed Forrester and William H. Tunnell. They chose as their first teacher Cora McCroskey of Long Canyon near Sisquoc. Other teachers at the school were Ella Lillard, Goleta; Miss Kinevan, San Marcos Pass; Hattie Green, Taft; Kitty Holland, Sisquoc; and Maude More, Garey. The last teacher was Bertha Klein, from Betteravia, who was a sister of Adolph Willmann's wife. She later married Joe Libeu, a local forest ranger. (53) The Manzana Schoolhouse is standing shakily today and has been named a Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark.

Along with a school the community petitioned for a post office. The fourth class station of "Adkins" was opened on August 18, 1896, and rescinded January 12, 1897. Hiram P. Wheat was the postmaster. Adkins functioned for only a little over four months. It is rumored that when the Post Office Department discovered that the postmaster could not read or write, they cancelled the post office. Adkins was the name of one of "Old Man Wheat's" son-in-laws. (54)

At the schoolhouse the wagon road forked. The main road continued up the Sisquoc River, while a branch road ran up the Manzana Creek to above the Davis homestead. East of Manzana Creek and south of the Sisquoc River is a large flat called Roberts Flat. The old road ran across this flat, passing the site of the Roberts homestead. Mr. Roberts was a stepson of Hiram P. Wheat; after he proved up on the land he deeded it over to Hiram Wheat and left the area. William Twitchell also lived for a short time on the Roberts Flat. In later years the Forest Service built the Sisquoc Guard Station near a spring on the east end of the mesa. The station building was built of salvaged lumber from abandoned homesteads. During the winter of 1983, the old cabin collapsed and is now just a pile of rotting lumber. At the east end of the mesa the road descended to cross to the north bank of the Sisquoc River. Here was located the homestead of Mr. William H. Spitler. He filed his claim in 1885 and reconveyed it to the government in 1890. The remains of his chimney and a large orchard, all the trees of which are now dead, remain today.

The road followed the north bank of the river for some distance to the homesteads of Lucien Forrester, brother of Ed Forrester, and Calvin Davis, whose father was a half-brother of Moses S. Davis, a homesteader on Manzana Creek. John Twitchell homesteaded the mesa south of Water Canyon. He first built his house down near the creek, but moved it to the top of a small ridge after a flood almost washed it away.

Above Water Canyon the valley narrows and it is some distance to the homestead of Adolph Willmann. His last name has been corrupted on maps of the area, so that the canyon and other points are now known as "Wellman"; however, old Forest Service trail signs correctly identify "Willmann Canyon." His wife was Louise Klein, a sister of Bertha, the last teacher at the Manzana School and later wife of Joe Libeu, brother of the owner of Zaca Lake. Adolph was a very industrious German, and over the years he developed one of the most prosperous homesteads on the river. His brother Herman, who homesteaded farther up the river and constructed the only stone house in the area, is buried on a small mesa just east of Adolph's house. Adolph Willmann gave up his homestead because of the difficulties of using the road through the Sisquoc Ranch and moved to Santa Maria so that his son, Henry Leo, could attend high school.

Continuing up the river valley the next location to be filed on was a flat at the mouth of Miller Canyon. William M. Miller filed a claim but did not complete the requirements and the claim reverted to the government. A pile of chimney stones marks the location where his house once stood.

The next homestead was that filed by Henry Abel, a harness and saddle maker from Santa Maria. His son, Henry J. Abel, became the local game warden and for many years served with distinction in that capacity.

Above the Abel Homestead, Joe Ruppert lived on a claim for a short period of time. Joe was a Mormon; in fact, he was the only Mormon to live in the area, although in later years the story circulated that all the homesteaders were Mormons. In fact, most of them were followers of Hiram P. Wheat.

The last homestead to be located up the river was that of Ed Montgomery. At his house the wagon road ended. Just a short distance farther up the river was a long narrows that was impossible to pass through with a wagon. Even the horse trail up the river was very dangerous and numerous accidents happened to travelers passing through the narrows. It is rumored that Hiram Wells attempted to homestead at South Fork above the narrows, but there is no documentation of this story.

From Ed Montgomery's homestead a trail ascended the north face of the Sisquoc River Canyon. It was called the Jackson Trail after an old timer who ran cattle on the large mountain potreros. At the upper end of this trail was a large potrero which later became known as Montgomery Potrero. It was named after Josiah Montgomery, the father of Ed, who had built an adobe house and ran cattle on the potreros along the top of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Josiah sold out to the Sisquoc Ranch. The Ranch later exchanged the land with the Forest Service for land closer to the Ranch headquarters. Josiah's claim was the last homestead associated with the Sisquoc River.

Going back to the mouth of Manzana Creek and progressing upstream along the Manzana, one first comes to the claim of Joseph Adkins, whose family was related to Hiram P. Wheat and the Wells family. The post office had been named for him, but his claim reverted to Hiram Wheat.

Just below Castle Rock, a well-known area landmark, was the homestead of Alvis H. Davis. His father was Moses S. Davis, who had ties with the Calvin Davis family of the Sisquoc. The site is now the home of John Cody, a noted sculptor, who has farmed the small flat area east of the house. The Cody homesite is the only private inholding within the San Rafael Wilderness Area.

Just a short distance upstream is the cabin of the Dabney family. The cabin was constructed for Charles William Dabney in 1914 on a recreation lease from the Forest Service. Mr. Dabney wished to take advantage of the good hunting and fishing available in the area. In 1930 Paul Squibb opened Midland School near Los Olivos and obtained permission from the Dabney family to use the cabin for school trips. In 1959 the cabin was given to the school, but the 99-year Forest Service lease held by the family was non-transferable. A 10-year lease was negotiated with the Sierra Club to maintain the cabin. The old cabin was built of alder logs which are now infested with termites and very rotten; however, a new roof was placed on the cabin in recent years. The Sierra Club currently maintains and uses the building under a Forest Service Granger-Thye permit. Santa Barbara County has also designated the Dabney Cabin as a County Historical Landmark.

The remains of the Alonzo Davis homestead are up the Manzana at the mouth of Dry Creek. This family was the last of the homesteaders to leave the Sisquoc-Manzana area, finally moving away in the 1920's. Fred Davis, a Civil War veteran, was married to a sister of Ed Forrester. He died after a short illness in 1895 and is buried near the Davis Sawmill site. Alonzo, Fred's son, was married to Lucy Plaskett from the Big Sur area south of Monterey. He established a sawmill to cut lumber from the native digger pine trees of the area. At first the mill was to be operated by water power, but the available water was insufficient to keep the mill operating. Davis then obtained a donkey engine to run the mill. Some lumber was sawed and sold to customers in the Santa Maria area. The boards used to sheet the outside of the Manzana Schoolhouse were cut at the Davis sawmill. When the road through the Sisquoc Ranch was closed, the sawmill business ended. The mill was dismantled and moved north to Mill Creek on the Big Sur Coast where it was used to cut redwood timber until being destroyed by a fire.

Arthur Davis never married. He homesteaded at Sulphur Spring on the north side of Zaca Ridge. He and Alonzo developed quicksilver and chrome claims near the spring. During World War II a road was bulldozed from just below Davy Brown through the head of Chiminea Canyon, past the mines down to Sulphur Spring, and finally down to the old homestead on Manzana Creek which was to be used as a mill site for the chrome mine. The Davis family now had a road to their homestead that did not pass through the Sisquoc Ranch, but it came too late, as the family had already moved away. The family still holds the property, and it is one of the few private inholdings within this portion of the Forest.

The Whitney family settled above the Davis homestead near the Horseshoe Bend of Manzana Creek, but did not stay long. Then Frank Boyer, a single man, moved into the same place. He showed attention to the schoolteacher, which was not appreciated by other young men of the community. One night on Frank's way home as his horse passed under a low-hanging oak tree limb, one of his rivals dropped a sack of hay on him and at the same time let out a screech like a mountain lion. That did it. Frank's horse took off like a shot out of a gun, and he was never seen again by any of his neighbors. He just packed up and left the area.

The Pratts homesteaded just below Cold Spring on Manzana Creek. They had a stepson by the name of Eddy Fields. At the site of the Pratt house you can still see a large "E" and "F" carved into the trunk of a live oak tree. The family did not stay long and sold their stove and other supplies to Forest Ranger Edgar B. Davison for $15.00. He used it to supply his Fir Canyon Station. The Pratt homestead was the last on Manzana Creek proper.

Up a tributary of Davy Brown Creek at Sunset Valley, Mr. C. E. Munch filed a claim. He was from the Ballard-Los Olivos area. He constructed a log cabin which was later used by Edgar B. Davison as winter headquarters for his ranger district. In the early 1930's Sunset Valley became a CCC camp; a portion of the stone foundations of one of the camp buildings can still be seen. At that time the old Munch cabin was burned along with the Davy Brown cabin to clear the forest of old, abandoned buildings.

At the head of Fish Creek just below Cachuma Saddle, a single man by the name of Louis Wineman filed a claim and built a cabin. Everyone called him "Dutch" and to this day the location is known as Dutch Flat.

These were the most important members of the community which grew up along the Sisquoc River and its tributaries. They were a very hardy group of pioneers. (55) Cattle, their main product, were driven to market in Bakersfield. Orchards and vineyards were planted and the fresh fruit peddled in Santa Maria and Lompoc. Some was dried for home use or sale. Vegetable gardens were a must. Chickens, turkeys, and pigs were grown, the latter two to be fattened on acorns in the fall. The Davis Sawmill was intended to be of great benefit to the community, but did not prove to be so. At first there was trouble developing a source of power, then the transportation problem had to be overcome. Actually, the wood was not very good; it soon warped and split, and therefore was not good for finish work.

The environment was a big factor in the community's inability to survive. Years of heavy rain and floods were followed by dry years. In 1898 it was so dry that there was no cattle feed except on top of the San Rafael Mountains. The establishment of the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Forest Reserve in that year also had a profound effect on the homesteaders' lifestyle. When the Reserve was established, the area was closed to further filing of homestead claims, and the rangers began an intense study of the existing claims to establish which were valid and which claimants had not properly fulfilled the requirements of residency and improvements.

The Reserve had a twofold impact on the cattle industry. First, the rangers brought a stop to the common practice of setting fire to the chaparral in late fall to clear the area and encourage grass growth the next spring. The fires were usually put out by burning into an old burn or being quenched by the fall rains. A few years after the end of this burning, the brush became so heavy that the carrying capacity of the land greatly diminished. The second impact was the establishment of range carrying capacity. In the old days homesteaders had put as many cattle on the range as they owned with little or no concern for the over-grazing that often occurred, especially during dry years.

The Sisquoc Ranch purchased a number of the homesteads and others were reconveyed to the government for an in lieu selection. The latter practice made Ed Forrester a wealthy man.

Other Santa Barbara County Homesteads

Numerous other, often isolated, homestead claims were filed within or adjacent to the current Forest boundaries. John Libeu, while caretaking at Zaca Lake, discovered that the lake was not part of the Zaca Land Grant as had previously been thought. He filed two homesteads to cover the lake and surrounding area, one in his name and one in his father's name. Over the mountain to the south in Ballard Canyon, the Birabent family filed adjacent claims for each adult member of the family and eventually owned most of the land in the canyon. Up at the top of Figueroa Mountain the Figueroa brothers, Jesus and Pacifico, filed claims. The mountain was later named after them. Also on the south side of the range, Pelen de la Guerra filed at what later became known as De La Guerra Springs.

Across Cachuma Canyon Antonio Gonzales had a ranch and ran cattle as far east as Peach Tree Canyon. Up Cachuma Creek the Smiths had a homestead at the junction of Lion and Cachuma Canyons. Above them and connected with the quicksilver mine were the Stewarts. Over at Peach Tree Canyon the Ruiz family originally settled, but the Mission Fathers contended it was part of the mission lands, and since Ruiz was the mayordomo for the mission, he gave up his claim and took up land at what later became Rancho Oso on the Santa Ynez near Los Prietos. The Grand family claimed 160 acres at the head of Stuke Canyon.

Continuing east into the Santa Cruz Creek drainage, claims were filed by Carlos Flores at Flores Flats, far up the West Fork of Santa Cruz Creek. Below Flores the Romo family of Goleta filed a claim on a large grass potrero near the mouth of Black Canyon. Mr. Alexander, who became the owner of Rancho Oso at Los Prietos, ran cattle up Santa Cruz Creek and on Romo Potrero. Florentine Garcia built a cabin at the spring on the north slope of Little Pine Mountain and ran some stock and some goats in the area. In a letter of March 5, 1905, L. A. Barrett, the Forest Inspector, wrote to Mr. A. Martin of Goleta, the local Forest Ranger, "I am informed Florentine Garcia is running some stock on the Little Pine Mountain. Mr. Garcia holds no grazing permit, did not have a written permit last year, and has made no application as yet and is virtually a trespasser. Will you please let me know what information you have in regards to this case." Florentine was a Yaqui Indian who married the daughter of Jose Ygnacio. He later gave up his claim on the mountain and his cabin was used as a patrol station by the Forest Service. (56)

Up Mono Creek Joel Hildreth filed a homestead in 1894 on the site of the old Indian village of Siguaya, called San Gervasio by the Mexicans. He sold out to Carl Stoddard, who in turn sold to Arthur Ogilvy. The ranch since has been known as the Ogilvy Ranch. It was later sold to a Mr. William Walker, who quickly sold it to Jimmy Andros and Dr. Heimlich. They in turn sold it to a communal organization called Sunburst (the Brotherhood of the Sun). Sunburst used the ranch as a place for new members to become acquainted with the brotherhood. They made numerous improvements to the ranch and ran a large number of goats in the area. In 1980 the Brotherhood sold the ranch to Jim Andros, who kept it for a short time before selling to the present owner, Jim Brucker.

Further up Mono Creek at Loma Pelona, James Ord obtained a patent to a homestead in 1890. He constructed an adobe building and ran goats. The shakes for the adobe roof were cut from incense cedar trees at Bear Camp at the head of the Sisquoc River. Jim worked on the trail to the top of Big Pine and down to Bear Camp from Loma Pelona. It became known as the Devil's Flower Garden Trail. While cutting shakes a storm came up, forcing Jim to camp at the Sisquoc until the snow melted enough to get back over the top of the mountain. While in camp the party's supplies ran out and they killed a bear for food. Thereafter the place was called Bear Camp. In 1895 Lorenzo G. Yates, in his article "June in the San Rafael Mountains," mentioned that John Murray had the Loma Pelona claim. A Forest Service letter dated February 7, 1905, to Mr. J. Ferod of Ventura calls his attention to the fact that he had 28 head of stock on the Loma Pelona with no grazing permit, so would he please remove his stock as soon as possible. All that remains of the homestead today is the stone foundation of the house and a nearby rock with the inscription "R. C. Ord 1890."

The last large water course to the east that extends into the center of Santa Barbara County is in Santa Barbara Canyon. Santa Barbara is wide at the mouth, where it opens into the Cuyama Valley, narrowing gradually toward its head. The old trail from Santa Barbara to the Central Valley ran down this canyon. The homestead of Henry Eliot Cox was about 4.2 miles up the canyon from Santa Barbara Canyon Ranch. He received his patent to the homestead on November 21, 1902, and later sold out to Charles Robinson. The present owner is Gertrude Reyes.

Lower down the canyon, near its mouth, is Santa Barbara Canyon Ranch. It is located on the site of the Indian village of Camup. C. Douglas Fox homesteaded the site in the 1890's and added land until he owned a large portion of the lower canyon. Mr. Fox sold to H. W. Klipstein, who in 1920 sold the ranch to the Snedden Land and Cattle Company. They added numerous parcels to the ranch. In 1940 the company decided to operate a cow and calf operation, but found that they did not have enough grazing land to carry the number of cattle needed to make the operation profitable on a large scale, so sold in 1944 to Juan Reyes and Gene Wegis. Later Juan purchased the share held by Wegis and now Juan's wife, Gertrude, owns the ranch.

The Reyes ranch has a line camp on Salisbury Potrero and grazes most of its cattle on National Forest land under a long-standing grazing permit. The ranch for many years acted as a gate which prevented vehicle access to the upper part of Santa Barbara Canyon. The Forest Service finally worked out a land exchange and right-of-way agreement to open this area to vehicular traffic; this has improved access to a large area of the Forest.

Numerous homesteads were filed on both sides of the Santa Ynez range and even in some locations along the top, such as in the vicinity of Refugio and San Marcos Passes. By the time the Santa Ynez Forest Reserve was formed almost all of the flat and desirable land had been homesteaded. These homesteads are so numerous that it is impossible to discuss them individually in this overview. Their history and impact should be researched and evaluated in a separate thematic overview.

Cuddy and Lockwood Valleys

Homesteading began at a very early date in Ventura County. The land in the larger canyons which was accessible by road was claimed first. One of the first homesteads was the 160 acres that John Fletcher Cuddy homesteaded in 1862. When he took up the ranch in what is now called Cuddy Valley, the construction of a house was the first necessity. Logs from pinyon trees were cut and used to build the first cabin. Square iron nails and pegs were used. This first cabin had a dirt floor and no fireplace. Cooking was done outside. By 1867 the family had grown and a new cabin was built containing four rooms and a fireplace. As the family continued to grow a large two-story house was constructed of lumber hauled from the sawmill on Mt. Pinos. When Don Cuddy died the ranch was divided and his son Joseph Don Cuddy received the home ranch and its buildings. He maintained the ranch as a cattle ranch but tried different things to augment the family income. For years it was run as a guest ranch and later as a turkey ranch. After the death of Joseph the turkey business was discontinued, and finally portions of the ranch were sold as subdivisions. One of these became known as the Lake of the Woods subdivision. In the 1960's the remaining Cuddy daughters sold the ranch to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church which still owns and maintains the property.

Lockwood Valley, some six miles west of the Cuddy homestead, became the home of another early pioneer family of northern Ventura County, that of Samuel and Anna O'Keefe Snedden. When they were first married, they moved to the area of Kelso Creek in Kern County. After establishing a ranch, their situation became desperate during the dry years of 1876-1877. The range was overstocked with too many ranchers running stock in the area. In the spring of 1879, Samuel took Anna and their three little girls to stay with her sister, Hannah Gorman. With help, Samuel and the boys drove the family cattle through the Mojave desert until reaching the Gorman area. There, the family was reunited and moved into Lockwood Valley. Samuel had worked a gold mine in the area some fourteen years before, so he knew its potential. The family constructed a log house 20 by 24 feet of pinyon logs and settled in to create a cattle ranch in this high valley.

Over the years the Snedden family purchased land and acquired the home ranch by homestead in 1891. The land purchased included the Mutah Flats in 1893 and Thorn Meadow in 1895. Later, the older children all filed homestead claims which gave the family more meadow land. Samuel bought 160 acres more in Lockwood Valley by "pre-emption." In 1902 he completed the purchase of all the private land in the upper Piru and Mutah Flats area. In 1907 a terrible snowstorm caught the Snedden cattle in the mountains. Many died, and it was decided that in the future they would drive the cattle down to lower elevations to protect them from the winter storms. Land for that purpose was first leased from the Hudson family and others along the foothills. Because of the uncertainty of obtaining leased land, the family eventually purchased land in the Santiago Canyon area.

Samuel Snedden passed away on January 18, 1915. The family decided that the best way to protect the ranch they had built over the past 45 years was to form a corporation. As a result, the Snedden Land and Cattle Company came into being May 15, 1916. Bertram, Samuel's second son who had worked with his father to build up the ranch, became head of the corporation.

In 1920 H. W. Klipstein put the Santa Barbara Canyon Ranch up for sale and the Snedden Land and Cattle Company purchased it. In December of 1939 Bertram Snedden, president of the corporation since its inception, passed away. The corporation had grown and prospered under his management. In 1940 the Santa Barbara Canyon Ranch was converted into a cow-and-calf ranch. This did not work out satisfactorily because the Forest Service restricted the number of cattle that could be grazed on the permit-land in the Forest. Because of problems which developed with the operation, the company sold the Santa Barbara Canyon Ranch, at the time consisting of about 3,400 acres, to Juan Reyes and Gene Wegis in 1944.

When the Snedden Land and Cattle Company was formed in 1916, it owned 1,593 acres of land and approximately 600 head of cattle. Thirty years later the company had grown until it owned over 18,100 acres of land, leased some 8,569 acres of private pasture, and leased additional range from the Forest Service. The cattle had increased to about 1,800 head. (57)

The Reyes family ranch at Ozena was about 20 miles west of the Snedden's Lockwood Valley Ranch. Rafael Reyes was born in Los Angeles in 1834, one of a family of five boys and five girls. The Reyes family originally owned the Triunfo Ranch, a Spanish grant, located at Calabasas. In 1854 a severe drought left them short of feed for their stock. Rafael and his brothers drove 2,000 head of cattle and 1,000 head of horses across the Tejon Pass and along the Camino Viejo, the historic route between Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley, until they reached the head of the Cuyama Valley, where they settled at the mouth of Reyes Creek in the Ozena area.

In 1870 Rafael Reyes married Maria Ygnacia Ortega, a member of a Californio family that traces its ancestry back to Jose Francisco Ortega, who came with the Portola expedition to settle California and establish the missions along its coast. Rafael and Maria had ten children. They made their home in Ventura for 20 years, until Maria's health failed. It was thought that the climate of the Cuyama Valley would improve her condition. She and all of the younger children were packed up and transported by horseback over the rough trails to the Reyes Creek Ranch, where she lived the rest of her long life.

The eldest son of the Reyes family was Jacinto Damien, better known as J. D. He was born in 1871 and died in 1953. For 31 years he was a forest ranger operating from the Reyes Ranch. After the death of Rafael the ranch was divided among the ten children. In later years after Maria Ygnacia's death, ownership passed out of the family. The old adobe is still standing just outside the National Forest boundary at the mouth of Reyes Creek and the Cuyama River, and is currently being promoted privately for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other Ventura County Homesteads

Another twenty or so miles to the southwest at Potrero Seco was the homestead of Maria Ygnacia's brother, Ramon Ortega. Ramon was known for his excellent horsemanship and skill at capturing grizzly bears with a riata. Ramon built an adobe cabin at Potrero Seco. The cabin is still standing, incorporated into a more modern house which has been built around it. Ramon married Candelaria Dominguez and had six sons and one daughter. He died in 1914 at the age of 83 while working cattle on the "Long Trail" down into the Mono. His horse fell, plunging him down into the creek onto some large rocks. He received a head injury and died a short time after the accident. Jack Warner rode some 28 miles to J. D. Reyes' station for help while Teodoro Ortega stayed with Ramon. It took J. D. until the middle of the night to reach the site of the tragedy and find that the old man had died. Ramon had always feared having his body packed out draped over a horse, so J. D. and the others arranged for the old man's body to be tied upright in a saddle on the gentlest horse available. Just as they got the old man loaded and were ready to start out, a thunderstorm broke. The rain came down in torrents and lightning flashed through the sky. After the storm abated, it was pitch dark. They tied a white piece of cloth to the rear of their most-trusted mule and let him show them the trail as they headed for the station. It was a wet and very uncomfortable ride for all on the way back.

The Ortegas ran cattle in the upper Sespe and across the upper potreros between Ventura County and Santa Barbara County. Ramon's son, Jose F. Ortega, had an adobe at the point where the trail from the Sespe started to climb up to Potrero Seco. Jose also had a cabin in Matilija Canyon near the mouth of Old Man Canyon; this cabin was destroyed by a brush fire in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

When Ramon and Candelaria were first married they built a wood house, corral and barn, and planted an orchard and an alfalfa field near the confluence of Murietta and the Middle and Upper North Forks of Matilija Creek. This homestead was destroyed by floods during the 1930's. In 1839 Rafael Lopez built an adobe house at the mouth of Matilija Canyon, at the probable location of the Chumash Indian village site "Matilija." In 1873 P. W. Soper immigrated to California and a short time later moved up into Matilija Canyon, just above the early Lopez homestead, and began his own farming.

Matilija Canyon was important because it was the site of the main trail from Ojai or Ventura across the mountains to the Cuyama Valley. In later years the hot springs in the canyon were developed as health resorts. These included Lyon's "Cliff Glen Resort," "Vicker's Hot Springs" and the "Ojai Hot Springs," later to be known as the "Matilija Hot Springs" developed by A. W. Blumberg. The area became a popular resort area until World War I.

Several homesteads were filed along the Sespe River. However, due to transportation problems they were never developed beyond small inholdings with limited grazing. Some acted as bases for hunters and fishermen on outings in the area.

Many of the most important homesteads located within or near the Forest boundaries have been briefly discussed because of their influence on the development of the mountainous portions of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. Some of the homesteaders remained for only a brief time and made little or no contribution to the settlement of the territory while others were long-lasting, exerting an influence on the growth of the territory and on Forest management which continues today.

The settlements of ranchers and farmers set the stage for the development of the Forest Reserves throughout the west. Abuse by sheepherders (who burned off the mountains in the fall to remove brush and promote grass for the next season's grazing), overgrazing by too many cattle on the range, and in some cases the removal of the few trees for lumber and disturbing the vegetation cover so that dry farming might be attempted, wrought havoc in the form of soil erosion. In the valleys below the mountains, farms had been developed which depended on water from the streams which flowed out of the canyons for irrigation. In the early 1890's floods and fires caused so much damage that a demand arose from the public for protection of the mountain vegetation in order to maintain the precious water supply. Demands for government action to protect the people in the valleys escalated and finally brought about the establishment of Forest Reserves and a system of resource management.

2.4 Growth and Development

2.4.1 Establishment and Development of the Forest Reserves/National Forests

An act passed in March, 1891 gave the President of the United States the power to create reserves on wild lands in public ownership. These lands could be covered with timber or chaparral. This act was followed by the Organic Act of June 4, 1897, which included watershed protection as an important feature. This was providential for southern California, since protection of the watershed and securing a stable water flow were of more importance than the small timber reserves of the area.

The first withdrawal of lands within the present Los Padres National Forest boundaries was in 1898. A series of withdrawals, aggregations and disaggregations, and name changes followed before the area was designated "Los Padres" and assumed a semblance of its current character in the 1930's. These events are chronicled in the following table, based primarily on William S. Brown's "History of Los Padres National Forest" (1945:33-37).

CHRONOLOGY OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING ESTABLISHMENT OF LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Date	Action	Acres	By
March 2, 1898	Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Reserve created	1,144,594	President William McKinley
June 29, 1898	Addition to Pine Mtn./ Zaca Lake Reserve	500,000	W. McKinley
October 2, 1899	Santa Ynez Forest Reserve created	145,000	W. McKinley
December, 1903	Merger of Pine Mtn./ Zaca Lake Reserve with Santa Ynez Reserve		President Theodore Roosevelt
June 25, 1906	San Luis Obispo Forest Reserve created;	365,350	T. Roosevelt
	Monterey Reserve created	355,495	
July 18, 1906	Pinnacles Forest Reserve created	14,108	T. Roosevelt
October 26, 1907	San Benito Forest Reserve created	140,069	T. Roosevelt
March 4, 1907	"Forest Reserves" changed to "National Forests"		
January, 1908	Addition to Monterey National Forest	25,105	T. Roosevelt
July 1, 1908	San Luis Obispo National Forest is changed to San Luis National Forest; some acreage is deleted.	-7,380	T. Roosevelt
July 1, 1908	Pine Mtn./Zaca Lake and Santa Ynez Reserves become Santa Barbara National Forest; San Luis Obispo Reserve is added to Santa Barbara National Forest		T. Roosevelt

CHRONOLOGY (CONT.)

Date	Action	Acres	By
July 2, 1908	Consolidation of Monterey, Pinnacles, and San Benito withdrawals into Monterey National Forest	514,777	T. Roosevelt
December 12, 1910	Elimination of acreage from Monterey National Forest	-21,527	President Wm. Howard Taft
September 5, 1916	Elimination of acreage from Monterey National Forest	-140,427	President Woodrow Wilson
August 18, 1919	Merger of Monterey and Santa Barbara National Forests into Santa Barbara National Forest		W. Wilson
September 30, 1925	Elimination of acreage from Santa Barbara National Forest; transfer of acreage to Angeles National Forest	-4,289 -265,538	President Calvin Coolidge
December 3, 1938	Change of name, Santa Barbara National Forest to Los Padres National Forest		President Franklin Roosevelt

Many people considered it inappropriate that the name Santa Barbara National Forest should be retained for the new forest, as parts of it were in San Luis Obispo, Kern, Monterey and Ventura Counties. People in these counties lobbied to have the name changed. The name Los Padres National Forest was finally chosen because the Forest was situated near the area where the padres had performed their missionary work during the Hispanic Period.

When the forest reserves were created they were placed under the jurisdiction of the General Land Office in the Department of the Interior. It was up to the Commissioner of the General Land Office to establish policies and procedures to carry out the mandate for administration of the newly created reserves. Up to this time the Land Office had been engaged primarily in the disposal of government lands.

Because the reserves had been established to prevent fire and preserve the watershed, planning a fire protection program was one of the first steps taken. The Department of the Interior appointed B.F. Allen as Special Forest Agent for all the reserves in Arizona, New Mexico, and California with headquarters in Los Angeles. He was granted power to spend federal funds for fire suppression. (58)

The demarcation of boundaries was another important issue. How could the boundaries of each reserve be defined to best fulfill the purpose of its creation? Land Office Commissioner M. Lamoreaux explained the rationale which guided definition of boundaries: "In establishing reservations it has been the aim to cover the headwaters of streams, so that the water supply may be protected as far as possible. The lands selected have been rough and mountainous, but areas of agricultural lands necessarily fall within the boundaries it is deemed proper to establish." (59)

County boundaries were in most cases ignored. Because the important factor in the creation of the reserve was watershed protection, two-thirds of the reserve lands in southern California contained chaparral instead of forests and whenever possible the boundaries were drawn to protect the entire headwaters of a stream or river. Examples of this are the Salinas, Sisquoc, and Santa Ynez Rivers, and Sespe and Piru Creeks.

With the establishment of the forest reserves in southern California, this portion of the state was covered with areas reserved for protection of watersheds. Opposition in southern Califonria was almost non-existent because of the importance of watershed protection to all segments of the population.

Watershed protection was an important consideration also in annexations to existing reserves. One notable instance was the combining of the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Reserve with the Santa Ynez Reserve, and the annexation of Rancho Los Prietos y Najalayegua. A petition signed by over 600 persons from the Santa Barbara area was presented, requesting the inclusion of the Los Prietos y Najalayegua Grant in the forest reserve. Those in Washington were not in favor, because the area contained no timber, most of the watershed of the river was in already established reserves, and the owners could exchange the almost worthless land for in lieu script under the Forest Lieu Act of 1897 (which allowed the exchange of untimbered lands in a particular forest reserve for a more valuable plot of equal size elsewhere). In the early days of the forest reserves, this law was often abused to the detriment of the Federal Government. However, the citizens of Santa Barbara were looking for a more stable water supply and the headwaters of the Santa Ynez River could provide this source. The continued petitioning by the public and the desire to protect the watershed finally won, and the Los Prietos y Najaleyegua Rancho was added to the existing reserves to establish the Santa Barbara Forest Reserve in 1903.

Management of the Reserves

Fire suppression as a component of watershed protection was the primary objective for management of the southern California forest reserves. In order to carry out this policy it was necessary to staff the reserves. Forest supervisors were placed in charge of the reserves under the direction of B. F. Allen, the first Forest Superintendent. Each forest supervisor hired rangers to work under him.

The Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Reserve was separated into two divisions by the Santa Barbara-Ventura County line. The western division was headquartered in Santa Barbara under the initial supervision of B.F. Crawshaw. The eastern division was under the supervision of Col. Willard Slosson, with headquarters at the town of Nordhoff (Ojai). Old correspondence indicates that there was considerable jealousy between Crawshaw at Santa Barbara and Slosson at Nordhoff. The local population found it much easier to get along with Slosson, and the newspaper at Santa Barbara was very critical of Crawshaw.

Slosson was discharged as a supervisor on October 15, 1899, but a few weeks later was reinstated. Local citizens considered Crawshaw to be a political appointee, and some of his rangers came under fire for poor performance in the field. In 1904, Forest Inspector Louis A. Barrett was sent to investigate the problems. On January 24, 1905, he replaced Crawshaw in the capacity of acting supervisor, serving until April 20, 1905. On that date Inspector Barrett left, and Col. Willard M. Slosson became supervisor of both divisions of the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Reserve, and the Santa Ynez Reserve, with headquarters now at Santa Barbara. In 1906 the San Luis Obispo Forest Reserve was added to the rest of the reserves administered from the Santa Barbara office of Col. Slosson. The title "Colonel" was bestowed on Mr. Slosson by a Santa Barbara newspaper reporter; because of the admiration of the residents for him, it stuck and continued to be used even after Col. Slosson retired from the Forest Service in 1914 and became mayor of Santa Barbara for two years.

Col. Slosson was followed by a series of distinguished Forest Supervisors.

FOREST SUPERVISORS, SANTA BARBARA/LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Name	Tenure		
Col. Willard Slosson	1908	to	1914
Christopher E. Rachford	5-1-14	to	4-30-15
Jesse R. Hall	5-1-15	to	1-31-20
Thomas W. Sloan	2-1-20	to	3-31-22
Chester A. Jordan	5-1-22	to	11-30-25
Willam V. Mendenhall	12-1-25	to	12-1-29
Stephen A. Nash-Boulden	4-1-29	to	2-31-46
Andrew Brenneis	3-1-46	to	2-1-49
L. A. Rickel	2-1-49	to	7-4-54
Robert E. Jones	7-4-54	to	6-9-62
William A. Hansen	6-9-62	to	4-1-71
Robert G. Lancaster	7-11-71	to	4-10-76
Allen J. West	4-12-76	to	6-18-79
Frederik G. deHoll	6-79	to	present

The service of each Forest Supervisor has been marked by significant events or activities which have allowed each to leave their mark on the Los Padres. Chester A. Jordan's tenure as supervisor was a difficult one, including several very bad fires. His death was attributed to overwork on fires.

William Mendenhall and Stephen A. Nash-Boulden were both from the "old school" of foresters. Both started at the bottom of the ladder and worked their way to the top over the years. Nash-Boulden served on the Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests before coming to the Los Padres on April 1, 1929. He served as supervisor during a time of great change in methods of forest management. The automobile or truck was replacing the horse as a means of transportation, and the radio made it possible for a supervisor to contact members of his staff in any part of the Forest in a matter of minutes. This provided a great contrast to Col. Willard Slosson, who had depended on a letter being delivered to the nearest post office and the ranger picking it up when he made a trip into town for supplies. Nash-Boulden retired from the Forest Service and moved to his ranch on the Santa Ynez River near the San Fernando Rey Ranch and became patrolman for the ranch. He continued to actively carry on this work until nearly 90 years of age when he rolled a jeep and was injured in the accident. Now in his 90's, he is still active and interested in management of the Forest. Many of his thoughts on his period as Los Padres Forest Supervisor and changes in forest management policies and methods are recorded in an oral interview done for the Los Padres Oral History Program (Holderman 1979).

Forest Supervisor Andrew Brenneis was responsible for the continued modernization of the Los Padres. During the tenure of Robert E. Jones, the massive Coyote Fire of 1964 caused major damage to the watershed in the Santa Ynez Mountains directly north of Santa Barbara.

More recently, Forest Supervisors have faced traditional crises, such as large wildfires, along with increased public awareness with regard to Forest policy and decisionmaking. The present supervisor, Frederik G. deHoll, has faced three of the most intense challenges in Forest history: preparation of a long-term management plan for the Forest; institution of a computerized communications system; and the need to reassess many aspects of the traditional Forest Service culture.

Los Padres Rangers and Ranger Districts

When the Forest was first created it was divided into ranger districts each patrolled by one "ranger." The Monterey and Santa Barbara National Forests in 1908 showed a total of approximately 25 districts. A 1907 report on the Forest gave the average size of a district as 79,284 acres. Brown (1945:96-97) stated that in 1913-1914, when the Forest Service reduced the number of ranger districts and formed larger administrative units, there were still eleven ranger districts (total) for the Monterey and Santa Barbara National Forests.

During the existance of the Monterey National Forest, a rotating, seasonal system apparently was used for location of the Supervisor's Office. Around 1911, the Arbolado (Big Sur vicinity), Chews Ridge, and Salinas Stations shared the designation (Mansefield, cited in [86] and [83]).

One of the large districts eliminated on the Santa Barbara National Forest between 1908 and 1914 was the Zaca Lake District. For many years John Libeu had been the district ranger and lived at his home at the lake. The district covered the western portion of the San Rafael Mountain Range. From Happy Canyon south of Figueroa Mountain, it extended north to the Cuyama River and from Tepusquet Canyon on the west to the Ozena area on the Cuyama River, where it joined J. D. Reyes' district. Under Libeu's command were several rangers and numerous part-time fire guards who worked only during the fire season. Since horseback was the only way to travel over most of the district, it was a very time-consuming part of the ranger's duties just to visit the far reaches of his district. Old office files preserved by the Libeu family provide an excellent source of information on the day to day activities of the early forest reserve district.

In 1923 there were ten full-time rangers on the Santa Barbara National Forest (this included the Monterey National Forest, included in the Santa Barbara in 1914). In 1925 over one-quarter million acres were transferred to the Angeles National Forest. At that time seven ranger districts were establshed: the Monterey, headquartered at King City; San Luis with headquarters at San Luis Obispo; Santa Maria, headquartered at Santa Maria; Santa Barbara, headquartered at Los Prietos; Cuyama, headquartered at the Cuyama Ranger Station in the Cuyama Valley; Ojai, headquartered at Ojai; and Mt. Pinos, with headquarters at Chuchupate Ranger Station, Frazier Park. In 1972 a further reduction was carried out, with the combining of the San Luis and Santa Maria districts into the Santa Lucia District headquartered at Santa Maria, and the combining of the Cuyama District with the Mt. Pinos District (retaining the latter name) headquartered at Frazier Park. These five ranger districts currently cover the area first administered with approximately 25 districts. Improved communications and transportation were the major reasons for the drastic reductions in numbers of ranger districts.

One of the first duties facing the early supervisors was the selection of rangers to carry out the protection of the lands assigned to them from fire and trespass (primarily sheep grazing without permit). On the Santa Barbara National Forest, the supervisor of the western division had approximately 800,000 acres and eight rangers; the eastern division was composed of some one million acres and had twelve rangers. During the first few years after the reserve was created, there was considerable changing of personnel.

Col. Slosson reported in 1907 that the personnel of the Santa Barbara National Forest consisted of field and headquarters staffs. At that time the headquarters staff was composed of the supervisor, deputy supervisor and a clerk. Those serving in the field were broken down into three categories, rangers, deputy rangers, and assistant rangers, as follows: Rangers - John B. Libeu, Stephen H. Douglas, Wm. W. Gray, Jacinto D. Reyes, George A. Bald and Carl Stoddard; Deputy Rangers - Edgar B. Davison, R. G. H. Forsyth, A. D. Martin, Robert H. Miller, Gerald V. Reyes, and Henry W. Mussall; and Assistant Rangers - John Riis, Robert W. Clark, Eugene L. Slosson, Alfredo G. de la Riva, Harry F. Hunt, Joseph J. Libeu, H. F. Van Winkle, Z. T. Davison, William A. Smith, Otto W. Hoeger, Thomas W. Dinsmore, Dwight Murphy, and Walter F. Emerick.

A number of the early rangers were chosen from men living within or near the reserve. Examples were John Libeu, who operated from his home at Zaca Lake, Joseph P. Hildreth who lived on his ranch on Mono Creek (later known as the Ogilvy Ranch), and J. D. Reyes who maintained his station headquarters at the Reyes Ranch at Ozena in northern Ventura County. Reyes served for a record 31 years in the same forest, ranger district and at the same station. As far as is known this record has not been equaled in the Forest Service.

Gifford Pinchot placed the following announcement in a newspaper in 1907:

"Men Wanted

> The National Forests need more men. For those who like a hard active life in the open the work is ideal...They must thoroughly know the country, its conditions, and its people...The Ranger must be able to take care of himself and his horses under very trying conditions; build trails and cabins; ride all day and all night; pack, shoot, and fight fire without losing his head. He must...about the timber...be familiar with lumbering and the sawmill business, the handling of livestock, mining, and the land laws. All this requires a very rigorous constitution." (60)

Requirements have changed since the above description of ranger duties was written. Now the ranger's duties have expanded into a network of positions needed to manage the complex requirements of a modern forest operation. They include in the Supervisor's Office alone a forest engineer, resource management officer, fire management officer, lands officer, and recreation officer, as well as less land-oriented positions such as public affairs and administration. Even the fire management officer has a number of people under him to help in carrying out the duties of the office. These have included: fire prevention officer, assistant fire management officer, fuel management officer, fire dispatcher, air operations specialist, and radio communications specialist. Many of these positions have counterparts on each Ranger District, headed by the person now formally titled "Ranger." Finally, National Forests now employ a network of specialists such as archeologists, hydrologists and wildlife biologists to better protect the Forest's resources.

The first rangers during the early days of the Forest Service received a meager salary, anywhere from $50 to $75. They had to supply their own horses, pack mules, gear and a place to live. A large part of the ranger's time was consumed in growing feed for his horses and going to town to obtain the mail and supplies. For some rangers this trip took two or more days to complete and if the weather was bad it could take longer. A ranger's day of eight hours patrol or trail work started when he reached the work area. After eight hours of work he had to make his way back to camp. Cooking, washing, and horse-care came after the regular eight hours of work.

Each of the early rangers was required to keep a journal (called a "daily diary") giving a detailed account of daily activities and whereabouts. Through these the Forest Supervisor was able to keep track of the activities of each ranger in his district. This journal was mailed to the supervisor each month and later returned to be updated and again submitted the next month.

An example of an early entry reads:

> "February 15, 1907. Cut cactus and cleared land for hay field. Began 7 AM, quit 5:00 PM. February 18. Plowed ground for hay. Began 6:30 AM, quit 4:30 PM. August 18, 1908. Patroled over Smiths Trail and down into Cary [Kerry] Canyon and up to head of French Canyon and back over to camp [Pine Canyon]." (From the diary of William Smith in the Blakley Archives.)

The Forest Service Use Book evolved as the Ranger's Bible, to be followed explicitly. Failure to comply resulted in reprimands from the supervisors. (61) The Use Book has much more complex modern counterpart, the Forest Service Manual.

"Our modern Forest Rangers have been assigned an intricate task, one which appears to be ever-changing and developing. Although we no longer have the horse-mounted ranger of old to idolize, we must acknowledge the fact that the job being done presently is necessary in the ultimate management of our National Forests and their natural resources. The multidisciplinary professional we call a modern ranger has an intricate job and can no longer be everything at once as the ranger of old. The assistants, technicians and other personnel form an integral part of the agency and the ranger is the administrative coordinator of the working organization." (62)

2.4.2 Early Transportation

When the forest reserves were established the first priority was protection of watersheds. Fire was the main enemy and was given immediate attention by the new staff of rangers. It soon became apparent that if the rangers were going to be able to patrol their districts and to perform the task of fire prevention and suppression, a trail and road network must be developed. Therefore, the development of transportation routes within the forest became very important.

Because most of the area in the reserves (in fact much of the area now within Los Padres National Forest) was mountainous, trails were the only way to cover the territory. Even today trails are the only means of visiting many areas of the Forest, especially the wilderness areas. The first trails were established by the Indians either as trade routes or as trails to reach areas of food procurement. An example of the former is the Mono-Santa Barbara Canyon route to the Central Valley, which is shown on an 1853 diseno (land grant map) as the "Camino de Santa Barbara." The Arroyo Burro Trail from the coast to the Santa Ynez River Valley is an example of the latter.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, transportation in the northern part of the Forest was especially difficult. Homesteaders on the coast side of the Santa Lucias found cattle raising difficult because of the hard drive to market over poor mountain trails. The only road across the mountains within the Forest boundaries at that time is also the only one which crosses the mountains today - the Nacimiento-Ferguson - and in the early decades of this century it was little more than a dirt trail. The Nacimiento-Ferguson Road as such was started in 1931 and finished in 1937. Its construction was a cooperative effort, with Forest Service crews, CCC enrollees, and State and county work relief crews all taking part.

There was also a stagecoach route through Reliz Canyon during this period, connecting Mission San Antonio with the Salinas Valley and points north. (83)

In 1904 Forest Supervisor B.F. Crawshaw submitted a report on the trails in the western portion of the southern reserve to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington, D.C. In this report he lists the trails, or so-called trails, in existence at the time the reserve was created and "The new trails made since the reserve was created--either all entirely new, or some of the old changed in part and improved, are as follows: . . ." (63) In this report he lists 142 miles of trails when the reserve was established and 249.5 miles in 1904. From this we can deduce that a large amount of trail building or rebuilding took place during the early days of the service. In his report Crawshaw says that, "No roads [were] made."

Early roads inside the Forest were few and far between. Numerous roads were constructed to ranches in the foothills, but the road up the Sisquoc River was probably the longest one in the western portion of the reserve. The road from Ventura to Ojai and then up the canyon to the hot springs, and the one from Santa Margarita through the La Panza mining district to the Carrizo Plains and the Central Valley, were important roads in other parts of the Forest.

In 1899, one year after the establishment of the first Los Padres area forest reserve, Superintendent Crawshaw sent letter #14 to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington, D.C. In it he stated that three rangers were at work on the trail over the mountain from Zaca Lake to Manzana Valley. Other work was being conducted on a trail from the edge of the reserve up Happy Canyon to Cachuma. In the eastern division the most important trail was from Ojai up the Matilija Canyon over Ortega Hill, down to cross the Sespe River, then up and over Pine Mountain to finally reach the Cuyama River. This trail was very important because it was the only means of communication between northern Ventura County and the coast. For years mail was carried by pack-horse over this trail.

Mrs. Yda Addis Storke mentions two wagon roads that crossed the Santa Ynez Mountains in 1891. They were the San Marcos Pass Road and the Gaviota Road. She also mentions three trails, one over the mountains from Montecito to the Najalayegua Canyon, another that crossed by the Cold Stream [Cold Stream?] Canyon, and a third from Santa Barbara up Mission and Pedregosa Canyons to branch near the top.

San Marcos Road was originally constructed by Indians from the Santa Barbara Mission to facilitate obtaining timber from the San Rafael Mountains for use in construction of buildings at the Mission. In 1804 the Mission established San Marcos Ranch to increase the food supply for the growing Indian population at the Mission. Some writers have called this rancho an "asistensia" but this is very doubtful, because no remains of a chapel have been found and the mission records show no entries of births, deaths, or baptisms taking place at the San Marcos Rancho. Grain, cattle and sheep were the main products of the rancho. On the top of a small mesa near the old adobe ruins that mark the site of the rancho headquarters is an oblong enclosure floored with river boulders that was used as a threshing floor to separate the grain from the chaff.

The Santa Ynez Mission, just a few miles down the river from the San Marcos Rancho, was also founded in 1804 and took over the non-secular needs of the residents of the Santa Ynez Valley. With the founding of the Rancho and the Santa Ynez Mission, the San Marcos Pass Road became a main route of travel between the coast st Santa Barbara and the Santa Ynez Valley.

In 1843, the administrator of Mission Santa Barbara leased to Nicholas A. Den and Richard S. Den the mission properties including the San Marcos Rancho for $1,200 a year. On June 8, 1846, the Dens purchased the San Marcos Rancho from Pio Pico, the Mexican governor, for the sum of 1,500 silver pesos. After the rancho was surveyed it was found to contain 35,500 acres. In 1818 and again in 1833 there were reports of vehicles making the trip over San Marcos Pass. In 1846 Colonel John C. Fremont brought his artillery over the pass during a heavy rain storm. A road was built through Gaviota Pass in 1860-1861 that allowed wagon and stage travel to the north from Santa Barbara, but the residents longed for a shorter route. In the "Gazette" published in Santa Barbara, articles appeared requesting the construction of a wagon road over the San Marcos Pass.

The Santa Ynez Turnpike Company was organized on August 6, 1868, with Charles Fernald, president, and Henry Carnes, secretary. Members of the board of directors were: C. E. Huse, Eli Rundell, J. L. Ord, J. B. Shaw, Llewellyn Bixby, Thomas Bell, Dr. M. H. Biggs, S. B. Brinkerhoff and Charles Fernald. In the latter part of the month of August, 1868, a group of 25 Chinese laborers started grading the San Marcos Road. It was stated that the road was not completed until 1870 at a cost of $38,000. Considerable travel occurred over the new toll road in the 1870's when the Santa Ynez and Los Prietos quicksilver mines were in operation. In the 1880's the route of the road was changed and considerable work was done to improve it. In 1898 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to purchase the toll road and add it to the county roads system.

The road through Gaviota Pass was constructed with funds made available in April of 1860 to construct a wagon road through the county of Santa Barbara. The sum of $15,000 was voted for this purpose and the County of Santa Barbara was required to match this amount. T. Wallace Moore constructed the road. The first stagecoach traveled north over this route in April of 1861. Professor Brewer, in his book "Up and Down California," tells about traveling over this road with wagons in 1861. The route was never popular because of the numerous ups and down necessary in crossing the many canyons that drained from the Santa Ynez Mountains to the Ocean between Santa Barbara and Gaviota. When it rained in winter, the road (built much of the way over clay soil) became an impassable sea of mud.

The Gaviota Pass Road continued to be used for stagecoaches to Lompoc until the completion of the railroad in the early 1900's put an end to the stage era. After that it was used by local residents, and later was improved and became the route of early automobiles, which had difficulty pulling over the steep grade on San Marcos Pass Road. Now Highway 101 passes through the Gaviota Pass and is the main-traveled coast route between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Between Gaviota and San Marcos Passes was Refugio Pass. The Ortega family (holder of the coastal Nuestra Senora del Refugio land grant) constructed a crude cart road over this pass. The Ortegas grew grain in the Santa Ynez Valley which had to be hauled over the ridge to the rancho on carts. When the pirate Hippolyte Bouchard invaded the coast of California in 1818, the Ortega family took their possessions over Refugio Pass to the Santa Ynez Mission for safekeeping until the pirate threat had passed. The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors ordered construction of a road over Refugio Pass on September 22, 1896, and work was carried out until the road was finished in 1898. Construction of this road helped bring about the end of the toll road over San Marcos Pass.

In the late 1890's and early 1900's Santa Barbara became well known as a wintering spot for wealthy easterners who wished to escape the cold and snow. The Arlington and later the Potter Hotels became famous as the place to spend the winter. One of the forms of recreation available to these visitors was horseback riding. The many trails in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains were available, and in the September, 1900, church issue of "Santa Barbara" of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Joseph J. Perkins writes about "Suburban Drives and Mountain Trails." In his article he states:

> "And no matter with how much else of Santa Barbara one may have become acquainted, until he has explored her bewitching canyons and climbed her rugged mountains, and seen El Montecito Valley from "El Contento"; Mission Canyon and La Goleta Valley from "El Reposo"; the valley and the bay from "Centinela del Abysmo"; refreshed himself at the mountain stream at "El Descanso"; lost his speech at "La Sorpresa" and, finally seen "all the kingdoms of the world" from "La Cumbre", he cannot claim to have seen her grandest attractions."

To facilitate exploring by these horseback parties, the Chamber of Commerce paid for the construction of a trail that started on Mountain Drive and climbed the south face of the Santa Ynez Mountains. It passed the large rock with steps cut in the northeast side called "Lookout Point" or "El Roco Grande," and continued on up the mountain through Flores Flats until it ultimately reached the top of the range at La Cumbre Peak. This trail was also called the La Cumbre Trail and was reported to be ten miles long.

In the 1920's considerable trail activity occurred in the Santa Barbara area. On July 16, 1921, the Riding and Hiking Trails Association was formed. James Marwick, George Whitelaw and Jeffrey Courtney presented a plan or organization to construct and maintain bridle paths and trails around the Santa Barbara vicinity. Prescott Ray was secured as trail supervisor in October 1921. A Ford car and tools were provided him for maintaining the trails, but he was required to provide his own horse to patrol and inspect the trails under his supervision. This is an early example of the strong community interest in and support for various aspects of Forest maintenance that continues today.

At the end of the 1920's, the great depression temporarily put an end to the private development and maintenance of trails. In the early 1930's the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program was developed to put unemployed young men to work at gainful employment in the out-of-doors. One of the major activities of the CCC program was the reconstruction of trails in the National Forests and the construction of new trails to open up portions of Forests that had not been accessible to the public previously. Civilian Conservation Corps camps and spike camps were established throughout the Forest and a network of trails was begun. During the next nine or ten years the present network of trails was completed in the Forest.

Very few new trails have been constructed since the CCC program ended at the beginning of World War II, and many of the old trails constructed by the CCC have not been maintained. Two factors brought about this gradual reduction in the Forest trails. The first was the shortage of manpower and funds during World War II and immediately thereafter. The second was the mechanization of Forest Service activities. The horse patrol was replaced by vehicles and airplanes. During the CCC period road construction was pushed forward, opening up large areas of the Forest to vehicular transportation. With the new roads came a change in public use of the Forest. In the old days the emphasis was on pack trips, using the trails to reach remote hunting and fishing locations. The roads brought in day use for picnicking and car-camping in established campgrounds along or at the ends of roads.

Forest transportation has evolved from the day of the Indian hiking along trails through the Forest to hunt or trade to the use of vehicles and helicopters, but the recreationist still hikes along the trails to camp and enjoy the wilderness experience. This experience is sought by many as an escape from a world traveling at a dizzy pace with little room for solitude and recreation in restful surroundings.

2.4.3 Civilian Conservation Corps Era

In the early 1930's with the great depression in full swing, large numbers of men were unemployed. Several different programs were developed to put these men back to work.

In National Forests the NIRA program was an early example. NIRA was the acronym for the National Industrial Recovery Act. The North Coast Ridge Road on the Monterey Ranger District was constructed through the NIRA program, with Forest Service patrolman Ralph Rhyne providing supervision. Cold Spring Campground is one of several on the Monterey Ranger District which date from the NIRA era. Further south, a NIRA work camp was set up on Manzana Creek in the San Rafael Mountains, at the end of the new road being constructed from Cachuma Saddle northward. The work camp was located at a campground then known as Manzana Camp, but after the work camp was set up at that location people began to call the area NIRA. That campground has been called Nira ever since. About five miles up Manzana Creek a new campsite was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps; that campground was the new Manzana Camp.

The CCC was the best known of the special programs established within the Forest. Numerous main camps were set up, then as special projects provided a need for a temporary camp near the work area, "spike camps" were set up. The U.S. Army was in charge of the day-to-day logistics of maintaining the camps, while the work program carried out by the men assigned to the camp was under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. It is beyond the scope of this overview to go into a detailed account of the locations of the camps and the numerous projects that were carried out under the CCC program. The various camp locations are listed in a manuscript on file in the Los Padres National Forest Supervisor's Office. Evidence of the existence of individual camps is scarce, marked by a chimney in one location and perhaps a stone foundation in another. More obvious are the manifestations of the project work carried out by the CCC.

The Arroyo Seco-Indians Road on the Monterey Ranger District and the Nacimiento-Ferguson Road were constructed partially with CCC labor, and the present District office at King City is an example of CCC construction. Perhaps more esthetically pleasing is the evidence of the CCC camp at Arroyo Seco, which includes fine stone craftsmanship in the form of stone walls. According to a former Los Padres employee whose grandfather worked on the stone structures at Arroyo Seco, the CCC members there considered themselves craftsman and took great pride in their work. (89)

On the Santa Barbara Ranger District the construction of the Camuesa and Buckhorn Roads was probably the CCC project that had the most lasting influence on this portion of the Forest. The Buckhorn Road connected the southern part of the Forest with the Cuyama Valley. It put an end to the use of the Mono-Alamar pack trail, which previously had been the main trail crossing the Forest. The Madulce and Mono-Pendola Ranger Stations were no longer on the main trail and soon fell into disuse. New stations were built at Little Pine, Bluff Camp and Alamar Saddle. Today, both the Little Pine and the Alamar Stations are gone. Bears destroyed the Alamar Station and human vandalism caused so much damage to the Little Pine "Happy Hollow" Station that the Forest Service finally crushed and burned it. The site of Bluff Camp Station was one of the temporary spike camps used by the CCC while they were constructing the road and the trails in that portion of the Forest. Now, in 1984, the station is used by trail crews, study programs, and the interagency Condor Recovery Team when they are working in this part of the Forest.

After the Buckhorn Road was completed down Santa Barbara Canyon, the road crew started construction of the Sierra Madre Road. This road was to run across the top of the Sierra Madre Mountains from Highway 166 on the west to Santa Barbara Canyon and the Cuyama Valley on the east. Parts of the road were constructed, starting at each end, but the beginning of World War II brought an end to both the CCC and the road. When the eastern end reached Montgomery Potrero and the western end reached McPherson Peak, work on the road stopped. In the 1950's a dozer trail was pushed through to connect the two ends, and finally in the 1960's the present road was completed. The Bates Canyon and La Brea Canyon branch roads were also constructed by the CCC.

Another program providing work during the depression was the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Most of the projects undertaken by this department were in the urban sector, but in the Santa Barbara area they undertook the construction of a road from Santa Barbara to the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains and down to Gibraltar Reservoir on the Santa Ynez River. This road, now known as Gibraltar Road, was at first called Depression Drive.

Some wealthy citizens in the community contributed to the fund to construct a road along the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains from Refugio Pass to Romero Saddle and down the north side of the Santa Ynez Mountains to what was then known as Bear Camp and is now known as Juncal Campground. This is the route of the road known as Camino Cielo. A large CCC camp was established at this location to furnish labor for projects in the upper portion of the Santa Ynez River watershed.

The ridge road project started at the top of San Marcos Pass and proceeded easterly, passing the site of the George Owen Knapp Lodge. Mr. Knapp contributed a large part of the finances for this portion of the road since it would benefit him in reaching his lodge. The road continued easterly to La Cumbre Peak and a short distance beyond joined the Depression Drive (Gibraltar Road). Construction continued east for some ten miles until it reached Romero Saddle where it intersected a road being built up the south side of the Santa Ynez Mountains from Romero Canyon (back of Montecito). Next it descended the north face of the Santa Ynez Mountains until it crossed the river at Juncal Campground. Here it joined a continuation of the Camuesa Road which ran up to Juncal Dam. This road was later pushed through Murietta Saddle and down the Murietta Fork of Matilija Creek to Highway 33 and Ojai. Almost all of this road construction was done either by hand with pick, shovel and wheelbarrow, or with a small steam shovel and small dump trucks. At the very end a small cable dozer was added to the working equipment used on the project. It was one of the first uses of this new-fangled tractor dozer that was just beginning to be used on dirt moving projects.

In the San Luis Obispo area roads were constructed into the upper portion of the watershed of the Salinas River and into the Pozo and La Panza area of the Santa Lucia Ranger District. The accomplishments of the CCC program in this portion of the Forest are very poorly documented; there is a need for further research on CCC projects and their locations.

In another portion of the Santa Lucia Ranger District, near the entrance to the San Rafael Wilderness, a CCC camp was established on the flat at Sunset Valley. The enrollees working out of the Sunset Valley Camp were involved in such activities as construction of a road up the Manzana to Lost Valley. Originally, this road was planned to join other arms of the Forest road system; controversy over its appropriateness resulted in construction being halted at the Hurricane Deck. Today, Lost Valley Trail partially follows the route of the old road. Evidence of the camp buildings at Sunset Valley is limited to meager stone foundations.

The Sunset Valley CCC Camp was associated with an important episode in development of the Forest's archeological record. D.B. Rogers, archeologist with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, arranged for a geographer, Milton Snow, to investigate the rock paintings known to exist in the Hurricane Deck area. Snow made his base at the Sunset Valley camp and used several enrollees as aides in his treks into Potrero Canyon, Falls Canyon, and Lost Valley. He also excavated within a prehistoric cemetery discovered during digging of a trash dump for the camp. His report and photographs of the rock paintings in the area were the earliest indications of the great cultural value of the Hurricane Deck area.

In addition to roads on the Santa Barbara and Santa Lucia Ranger Districts, standing examples of CCC construction in these areas include the Pine Canyon Station buildings and some of the buildings at Los Prietos Ranger Station.

Within the Ojai Ranger District, CCC camps were established at Rose Valley and Sisar Canyon. These camps were associated with construction of a road from Rose Valley to Nordhoff Peak, across the top of the ridge toward Topatopa Peak, and down Sisar Canyon to Highway 154, a project very similar to Camino Cielo on the Santa Barbara Ranger District. The Piedra Blanca Camp near Rose Valley was known for its driver crew made up entirely of black youths.

2.4.4 Major Road Construction - Highway 1 and Highway 33

While the majority of the roads in the Forest were constructed during the CCC period, two roads which have had significant impacts on the Forest's development were not CCC projects, though they were constructed at about the same time. These were Highway 1, along the Big Sur coast, and Highway 33, which connected the Ventura area with the interior valleys.

Highway 1 was constructed in the 1930's by the State of California. Construction along the Big Sur coast was an ambitious project, with blasting through rock required at various points. Locals remember that some convict labor was used, and that there was a road camp at Kirk Creek, where a Forest Service campground operates today. Lloyd Junge, son of John Junge who built the historic Pacific Valley Cabin, drove a gasoline truck from Cambria to supply the road crews. (83)

The impacts of Highway 1 construction along the Big Sur coast on the National Forest were not felt until the early 1960's. After the land interchange through which the Forest Service acquired much of the southern Monterey County coast from the U.S. Army in 1957, Highway 1 became the auricle for mass quantities of recreational visitors to the area.

One of the roads that has had the greatest impact on the back country of Ventura County was begun prior to the CCC program. This was the Maricopa Road (present Highway 33) which was opened by a special program held on October 22, 1933.

During the Hispanic period in Ventura County families such as the Reyes and Ortegas moved into the northern part of the county to establish ranchos. Due to their isolation, cattle and horses were the products most easily moved to market. Later, with the end of the gold rush in northern California, some of the miners began to move south and a number of them were drawn to the Cuyama Valley and surrounding area of northern Ventura County where they took up homestead claims. For these people to communicate with their county seat of government, it was necessary to make a week-long trip over the Camino Viejo and down the Santa Clara River to reach San Buenaventura, the county seat of government. In the 1890's the residents of the Cuyama Valley petitioned the board of supervisors for the construction of a good trail from the Cuyama Valley to the coast. The supervisors authorized the county surveyor, John A. Barry, to undertake a survey for a trail over which the ranchers could drive their stock to market. This item of news is found in the "Ventura Free Press" of August 11, 1890:

> "County Surveyor, John Barry, with J. Willett and J. Bellah, who are locating the Cuyama Trail from Ventura, returned to town Saturday afternoon, hot, tired, dusty and out of grub. They report the Cuyama Valley folks as turning out en masse, and working like beavers, cutting brush, etc."

Mr. Barry completed his survey, but this did not settle the question as the residents of the Cuyama continued to press for the construction of a road to replace the trail to their valley. In the "Ventura Free Press" for August 21, 1890, was an editorial "The Road to the Cuyama" in which it was reported that such a road could be constructed for $15,000, of which some $4,000 had been subscribed. It reported the discovery of a ledge of gypsum of superior quality in the area that could be mined if adequate transportation to market could be provided for the ore.

Agitation for a road continued, both from the Cuyama people and from those in the Bakersfield area. On August 18, 1891, the "Ventura Free Press" published the following:

> "The wagon road from Nordhoff to the Cuyama, surveyed by Walter L. Hall and pronounced by competent engineers as being one of the best surveys ever made over the mountain, a road which will open the shortest route from Bakersfield to the coast must be built, so say the Kern County Board of Supervisors."

It was not until 1912 that the construction of the road began to draw new attention. With the development of oil resources in Kern County, the people of Ventura and Kern Counties put further pressure on the legislature. In 1913 a bill was passed stating that the road would become a part of the State Highway System when completed.

The first step toward bringing this about was the formation of a highway district. This was started in 1926 when T. G. Gabbert, supervisor of Ventura County, J. I. Wagy, supervisor of Kern County, and Sam J. Stanwood, supervisor of Santa Barbara County, met in Ventura to organize the district. It was agreed by the boards of supervisors that the ratios of financial participation would be 46% Ventura County, 36% Kern County, and 18% Santa Barbara County. Six contracts were let by the district and three by the Federal Government. "The portion of the road through the National Forest being built by the Federal Government under contracts let by the Bureau of Public Roads, through cooperative agreements entered into between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Joint Highway District. Funds for these sections were furnished by the United States Forestry Service and by the district, with the State of California matching funds from the three counties of the district." (64)

The final section of the road to be completed was known as the Sespe Section and consisted of 17.5 miles within the National Forest. This section was through the Sespe Gorge and was constructed by Sharp and Fellows Contracting Company for the sum of $586,664.31. The contract was let in October of 1932, and the road was completed in October of 1933.

On December 15, 1933, the entire highway was certified as completed by the board of directors of the district to the State of California. On June 26, 1934, the State of California Highway Commission accepted the entire road. A barbecue was held in connection with the completion and acceptance of the road. It is estimated that more than 35,000 people attended the gathering held at the Wagy Ranch in the upper Cuyama Valley. The invitation stated, "Leave your purse at home, but bring your table tools." A Spanish orchestra, singing and dancing by Spanish entertainers, and speeches by the distinguished guests made it a very enjoyable celebration of the completion of the long sought-after Maricopa Road. An article in the Region 5 publication, "California Ranger" (November 3, 1933) stated:

> "It is estimated that 25 traffic officers went complete 'cucoo' attempting to put two lines of cars over a one-way road at the rate of 10,000 in 10 hours. However, this was finally accomplished over a one-mile stretch. It is thought that the cops will recover."

Also helping to make the afternoon enjoyable were the victuals provided. The same California Ranger article described the scene as follows.

> "The day was warm. The crowd was tired and thirsty and hungry. It drank 13,776 bottles of beer and 5,000 bottles of soda pop. It consumed 4-1/2 tons of steaks, 900 gallons of chili beans and 1,000 loaves of bread. Finally it listened to no less than 25 speeches by prominent citizens, looked in on a local talent rodeo and witnessed some excellent Spanish dancing and singing."

Additional information on the planning and construction of the Maricopa Road is included in the personal archives of Mr. Bill Friend of Ventura. The Friend collection contains historical documents and photographs of the Maricopa Road planning and construction.

2.4.5 Communication

When the first reserves were established, mail was the only means of communication between ranger districts and the Forest Supervisor. Each ranger had to make at least one trip per month to the nearest post office to send in his daily log and other reports. In some cases it took two days to make the trip in and out, and longer in inclement weather. The need for a speedier means of communication was soon evident, but did not take place until the CCC period. The Forest Service and the CCC boys built miles and miles of telephone line over very difficult terrain. These lines often were put out of commission due to lightning strikes, wind and in some cases fire.

In 1934 the use of a new means of communication, the radio, was just beginning. Raymond Richart had worked for the Forest Service as a summer patrolman in 1916-17-18 and in 1934 was back in the CCC program at the end of the great depression. At that time he held an amateur radio license and the Forest Service was just beginning to show interest in this means of communication. "My first radio installation with the Forest Service was in Happy Canyon for a Forest Service road crew camp. The camp operated with a camp operated by Al Nolder on the Stanwood property on top of the San Marcos Pass." (65) In 1935 Richart built radios in the old Los Padres Supervisor's Office in the basement of the Old Federal Building at Anacapa and De La Guerra Streets. Ray wrote, "The receivers we constructed were better than any on the market at that time. This, of course, put a feather in my cap and Nash-Boulden made me a staff member in charge of radio communication. That position I held for nearly twenty years and under three supervisors." (66)

The radio made the telephone obsolete, and the phone lines throughout the Forest were allowed to fall into disrepair. Now, most of the old lines have been removed. Occasionally if you look in the pine trees along the route of one of these old lines, you will see a small white insulator still extending from the side of a trunk. Examples of the telephones used are housed today in the Los Padres Research Archives.

No portion of the Forest is beyond the range of the modern radio aided by repeater stations. This has greatly facilitated communication. It is especially essential during a fire to be able to communicate quickly with all those involved in its suppression. Communication has come a long way since the creation of the Forest Reserves.

2.4.6 Fire

Fire is not new to the chaparral and forests of southern California. In J.P. Harrington's notes from interviews with the Chumash, he mentions that fire was used to clear away the brush and improve the hunting and food-gathering possibilities of areas along the coastal plain. Governor Arrilaga issued an order to the missions on May 31, 1798, setting forth punishment for Indian neophytes should they be convicted of starting a brush fire.

During Hispanic times fires often swept across the Southern California mountains burning everything in their paths. The fires usually continued until the winter rains came or they reached an area burned by an earlier fire. In about 1823 Richard Henry Dana recorded a great fire that swept the mountains near Santa Barbara. Alfred Robinson in "Life in California" gave the following description of a fire:

> "About this time we were much alarmed, in consequence of the burning of the woods upon the mountains. For several days the smoke had been seen to rise from the distant hills of St. Buenaventura, and gradually approach Santa Barbara. At last it reached the confines of the settlement and endangered the fields of grain and the gardens. Soon it spread low upon the hills, and notwithstanding a strong westerly wind was blowing, the flames travelled swiftly to windward, consuming everything in their course." (67)

Between 1860 and 1880 the Americans moved into California in increasing numbers. They began to cultivate the valleys which had been used as cattle ranges during the Rancho era. During this period of time numerous great fires raged in the mountains. They were started in several ways: sheepherders clearing brush as they left the mountains in the fall so there would be green grass the next summer upon their return; campers and hunters being careless with campfires; farmers burning brush to clear land in the foothills; and in a few cases lightning strikes. The effects of these fires were felt mostly by the farmers in the valleys due to flooding of the land after the fall and winter rains, and the destruction of watersheds which provided water for irrigation.

"Fires in the Mountains"

> "Someone who has no regard for the rights of anyone, and who defies the law and the vengeance of an outraged people, has let fire get out on the mountains to the north of town. We are not sure, considering all the consequences attending such needless fires, but that hanging is too mild a penalty for letting out these fires in the mountains. The man who does it forfeits his rights and deserves to suffer." (68)

In the 1800's a cry was raised by farmers and conservationists for some means of controlling wildfires. This eventually led to the establishment of the forest reserves in southern California. The mountain lands were set aside as reserves to protect the watershed and rules and regulations were established to administer these reserves. The new organization which became the Forest Service was established to patrol the reserves and see that the rules and regulations were put in force and that whenever possible fire was suppressed.

Accurate records have been kept of the fires occurring on the Forest since 1910. These records are on file in the Los Padres Supervisor's Office.

Throughout the years since the reserves were established, some fires have been outstanding in size and destructive force. In June of 1917 the Matilija-Wheeler Springs fire burned for five days and nights over more than 30,000 acres. This fire swept out of the National Forest behind the town of Ojai. A number of buildings, homes and barns in the town were destroyed. In 1919 the Tujunga fire started on the Los Padres and burned into the Angeles National Forest with the loss of some 80,000 acres of watershed. In 1921 the Branch Canyon fire burned 10,000 acres and the Big Pine fire burned over 15,000 acres. In 1922 the Kelly Canyon fire of 100,000 acres took over 30 days to completely control, and in 1928 the Aliso Canyon fire took 18 days and burned 43,000 acres.

One of the largest fires in southern California was the Matilija Fire. It broke out on September 7, 1932, and was first sighted about 8:00 a.m. by a party on Sulphur Mountain. The fire was later reported by the La Cumbre Lookout at 10:00 a.m. This lookout is some 21 miles away and the smoke had to rise to an elevation of 2,900 feet to top the intervening ridges. A dense blanket of fog along the coastal plain acted as a background and prevented the Reyes Peak Lookout from seeing the fire although it was only five miles away.

At 10:06 Ranger Baxter ordered 35 men from Ojai and additional men and materials from Santa Barbara. The first men on the fire traveled 13 miles by auto and five by horseback and reached the fire at noon. At this time the fire had burned about 300 acres. They checked the point of origin for the cause and found footprints but not enough evidence to be conclusive. By 2:30 men began arriving on the fire line. Until 4:00 p.m. the fire reacted normally with approximately 7 miles of line constructed and 600 acres burned.

A sudden change in conditions in the fire area caused a surge which spread the fire southeast to southwest very rapidly, continuing until 12:00 p.m., burning approximately 20,000 acres, and reaching a total acreage at daybreak of around 23,000 acres. It was concluded that the fire gases rising against the burning ridge caused air circulation that finally reached cyclonic proportions. All during the day the fire continued to spread, and in the evening the crews were all pulled back to reorganize. That evening fire was reported coming over Divide Peak and spreading into the Juncal area and also to Coyote Creek.

On the morning of September 8th an airplane was brought in for observation work, and more men and equipment came in. A south line was established, but the other areas were too dangerous to attempt to send in crews because the fire was spreading too fast in the rugged terrain. At 2:00 p.m. the fire was still spreading rapidly in all directions, preventing entrance of crews into the north and east sectors.

On September 9th the lines on the south and west were beginning to hold, and a line from the Rincon to Matilija was established. Crews were sent to the end of the Maricopa-Ventura Highway (Hwy. 33), which was under construction at the time, to construct a line into the Sespe. On September 10 the fire crossed the Sespe in the afternoon and ran east from Sespe Gorge to Pine Mountain Lodge and Mutau Flat, a distance of 12 miles, in one hour. By that evening the acreage of the fire was approximately 80,000, and it was estimated that 240 miles of fire line were in use.

By the morning of September 11, the fight was to stop the fire at Juncal Dam and prevent it from spreading to the south side of the Santa Ynez Mountains. On the northeast and northwest fronts the fire was shifting and spreading rapidly with no possibility of establishing lines. On the 12th of September the lines on the southwest and south sides of the fire were holding and the line on the east was beginning to hold. The fire was continuing to burn on the north and east sides. At 4:30 p.m. the Reyes Peak Lookout burned with the lookout man getting out just in time. By this time the fire had burned over 120,000 acres and the estimated length of the fire line was 360 miles.

From September 14 through September 20 it was a long, hot and dangerous job to continue to push lines along the edges of the fire until they could be connected. Some of the lines were burned over and had to be reconstructed farther away from the fire. It was estimated that some 500 miles of fire line were constructed in controlling the fire. In Ventura County 189,968 acres and in Santa Barbara County 29,267 acres were burned over for a total acreage of 219,253 acres.

This fire is notable not only for its magnitude, but also for the two new methods of communication used. The progress of the fire was observed from airplanes, which facilitated mapping the best access points and deciding where to construct fire lines. The radio was brought into use and allowed the fire boss to be in constant contact with his fire camps and field crew chiefs. This greatly aided in making the quick changes in plans necessitated by the sudden rushes of the fire. Borate bombers were not available during this fire; they would have drastically restricted the progress of the fire. Also if Highway 33 had been completed, it would have provided access to some of the most difficult terrain on the north edge of the fire.

In later years several large fires have burned in the Santa Barbara front country of the Forest. The Refugio Fire in 1955 burned the south side of the Santa Ynez Mountains from Refugio Canyon to San Marcos Pass. In 1964 the Coyote fire started on Coyote Road in Montecito and burned over the coast range and up Mono Canyon until the wind drove the fire back upon itself. It then swept down into the outskirts of Santa Barbara and then up to Painted Cave. Shortly after this fire the Wellman Fire broke out, resulting from an airplane crash on Wellman Mesa, and spread over a large portion of the San Rafael Wilderness before it was controlled. These fires saw the increased use of borate bombers to knock down the hot spots and stop runs before they could get a good start.

The most recent large conflagration was the Marble Cone Fire on the Monterey Ranger District, which burned 177,886 acres in August, 1977. This was one of the two or three largest wildfires in recorded California history. Despite modern firefighting equipment and heavy manpower, the Marble Cone saw two fire fronts merge and burn for a total of 28 days.

In the 1950's the "Pre-attack Plan" was put into action. Fire lines (fuelbreaks) were bulldozed along the top of many of the ridges in the Forest to provide access and a basic line from which to fight a fire. In later years this ambitious plan has been greatly modified and many of the lines have become overgrown and useless. In the last few years the preferred method of fuels management has been prescribed burning. Prescribed, or controlled, burning is done in an effort to simulate the natural fire cycle which was interrupted by the program of fire suppression enthusiastically carried about by the Forest Service since the Service's inception.

One aspect of fire management which has waxed and waned in the Forest Service and other agencies is the use of lookouts for fire detection. Construction of lookouts began as early as the late 1800's in California, and the number of lookouts increased gradually through the first two decades of the 20th century. In 1933 an inter-agency group working at the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Range Experiment Station released a report recommending an integrated system of lookouts reaching from the Oregon border to the Mexican border. As a result, the numbers of lookouts began to increase rapidly, and the CCC became a primary organ for lookout construction.

Use accelerated before and during the war as the military used lookouts for their Aircraft Warning System (AWS). Due to its location, the Los Padres had a much greater than average number of AWS posts. At the height of World War II the total number of AWS posts was 36. Most AWS observers operated from existing lookouts, occasionally building a one-room structure nearby to live in. (43)

The number of lookouts in California reached a peak in the 1950's. Since that time, manned lookouts have decreased in number dramatically, and many structures have been demolished.

According to Brown, the first standard lookout in the Forest was built on Frazier Mountain in 1917. Six others (Figueroa Mountain, La Cumbre, Cone Peak, Hi Mountain, Chews Ridge, and Santa Paula Peak) were in use by 1930. The remainder were built primarily by the CCC during the height of that program in the mid-1930's. (43) Many of the original structures have been accidentally or intentionally destroyed, and modified or rebuilt lookouts are most common today.

Fire lookouts are the subject of a study currently being completed by Mark Thornton for the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service. Although a final report is not yet available, Thornton has identified the following standing or partially standing Los Padres National Forest lookouts that have demonstrated or potential historical significance: Junipero Serra; McPherson; Branch Mountain; and Cuyama. Two AWS structures, one on federal property at Black Willow Spring (Santa Lucia Ranger District) and one on private property near Marble Peak (moved from Anderson Peak, Monterey Ranger District), are also considered significant because of their rare designs, which include cupolas. Today, only an average of five Los Padres lookouts are manned regularly.

In 1905 Louis R. Barrett, Forest Inspector, sent the following letter to Mr. A. D. Martin, Forest Ranger, at Goleta, California, with copies to rangers Stoddard, Muzzall, Shoup and Forsyth:

> "Dear Sir: It is desired that you read the enclosed circular carefully, and be prepared to follow instructions contained therein. You are directed to use every endeavor to arrest parties who start fires on the Reserve lands, or violate any of the Federal Forest Reserve laws. In cases of arrest, you will at once communicate with the Supervisor. A careful perusal of this circular will give all the information needed to handle such cases. Very Truly Yours, Louis R. Barrett, Forest Inspector (69)

In this day and age it takes much more information than that found in the circular mentioned in the above letter to provide the fire protection necessary for Los Padres National Forest.

2.4.7 Timber Harvesting

The forest reserves of southern California were created for watershed protection and not for the meager timber resources they included. The timbered areas of the Los Padres National Forest main division offer little inducement to the lumber industry, because of the poor grade and general inaccessibility of the timber. It has always been cheaper to ship in lumber from northern California than to fabricate it on the Forest and haul it to market in the surrounding communities.

Nor has the Monterey Ranger District been the scene of much timber harvesting on a commercial scale. In the late 1800's and early 1900's there were several sawmills in the Pacific Valley area. These included; the Davis sawmill, brought north from Manzana Creek in the Santa Lucia Ranger District, and at least one other sawmill on Mill Creek; mills on Prewitt and Plaskett Creeks; and possibly a mill on Limekiln Creek. (83) Tan oak was harvested in the area for production of tannic acid, and some redwood was harvested and used in construction. Lumber was shipped from Pacific Valley to compensate for the lack of trails and roads; ships anchored across from the present Pacific Valley Forest Service Station location, a very dangerous anchorage but apparently worth the risk. The last material cutting of tan bark took place between 1919 and 1921 (Brown 1945). According to Brown, there was also a small sawmill in the Big Sur vicinity which operated into the second decade of the 19th century.

After the reserves were established and combined, it was decided that a survey should be conducted to record the forest conditions in the Santa Barbara Forest Reserve. In 1905 Fred G. Plummer and M. G. Gowsell conducted a survey for the United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey. It was titled, "Forest Conditions in the Santa Barbara Forest Reserve California." This report gave: a general description of boundaries, topography, drainage, water supply and irrigation, precipitation, formations and soils, crops, grazing, mining, logging, prices of lumber and cordwood, burns, and zones of plant life; a tree list for the area; and finally a detailed description of each township and range in the Santa Barbara Forest Reserve. In the detailed description the reporters gave a brief description of the topography and an overview of the type of vegetation. If the township was timbered they listed the species and their condition, and the estimated cords of wood and board feet of lumber. This publication gave the Forest Service a first hand idea of the vegetation existing in the reserve.

In the Hispanic period in southern California, lumber was a very scarce item and was obtained with great difficulty. The mission fathers did some cutting of Bigcone spruce near the headwaters of the north fork of Matilija Creek to obtain timbers for the construction of the mission at San Buenaventura. William Dewey Hobson of Ventura gave the following information: "The pine timbers used in the construction of the mission of San Buenaventura were brought from the mountains of San Emedia, a distance of 40 miles, by the Indians. The oak timbers were procured nearer on the Santa Ana and Ojai." (70) Father Antonio Ripoll stated that in the Santa Barbara area in 1817 "Corte de madera de alamos de 1817 Bigas 90--morilos 570," and in 1818, "Madera de Pino en Sunpue por Snajalayeua Morillos 120, Canes 159, Bigas 0." [Corte-cut, madera-wood or building timbers, alamos-cottonwood trees, bigas? vigas-beams, moriles? morillos-poles, canes-short timbers placed lengthwise under a beam or girder.] (71)

The first formal request to cut timber on public domain lands within the Forest came from San Gabriel under the date of February 24, 1839, to Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado. Adz and axe were the common tools for the Spanish to use in woodworking. They also brought some 4-foot whipsaws and in the 1820's the American whaling ships brought and traded 7-foot saws to the Californios. In March, 1847, the first known circular saw was put into operation in California by the American occupation force at Monterey. This saw was propelled by four mules.

In the Santa Lucia Ranger District a sawmill was established on Figueroa Mountain, near what is now known as Sawmill Basin. It was built by Harvey Stonebarger, a blacksmith from Los Olivos, in 1914. He operated the mill for a short period but it was not a financial success, so he dismantled the mill and moved it back down to Los Olivos.

In the 1890's the Alonzo Davis family set up a mill at the mouth of Dry Creek on Manzana Creek, also within the Santa Lucia Ranger District. At first they attempted to run the mill by water power, digging a ditch from Mill Creek and the Manzana at the Horseshoe Bend. It was found that there was not enough water to operate the mill, and eventually an engine was obtained for power. Digger pine was common locally and was the major source of logs for the mill. They cut some valley oak also. Lumber from the mill was used to expand and sheet the Manzana Schoolhouse, which still stands, and some was sold to people in the Santa Maria area. The lumber was of poor grade, and shortly after operations began, a problem with access through the Sisquoc Ranch put the mill out of business.

The Davis Sawmill was dismantled and moved up to Mill Creek on the Big Sur Coast, where redwood lumber was cut until the mill was destroyed by a fire.

More than one sawmill operated in northern Ventura County for limited periods of time. Joseph Gale established a mill at Sawmill Potrero on the north side of Mt. Pinos. By 1857 he was supplying lumber for the building of Fort Tejon. Gale had an adobe in Grapevine Canyon and the mill at Mt. Pinos. Here he logged largely Bigcone spruce on the north slopes and in the canyons. Later, a mill was established on the south side of the mountain and was used mostly to cut mining timbers for the Frazier Borate Mining Company. Some cutting of timber also occurred about 100 years ago in the Frazier Mountain area, to provide mining timbers when gold mining was active in the area.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's a salvage operation was carried out in the East Pinery, north of Ranger Peak, after the Davy Brown Fire burned the area. It was not very successful due to the long distance the logs had to be hauled to a sawmill.

2.4.8 Mining and Other Mineral Development

Gold

Since Hispanic times gold mining has been carried on in various parts of the Forest with generally poor results. Most of the rocks that make up the mountains of the Forest are of sedimentary origin and very little volcanic activity has taken place.

In the latter part of 1840 or early in 1841 a Mexican mineralogist, Don Andrea Castillero, traveled from Los Angeles to Monterey. On the journey he discovered small water-worn pebbles known by the Mexican placer miners as tepostete, a form of pyrites. Castillero exhibited these at the residence of Don Jose Antonio de la Guerra y Noriega in Santa Barbara, where he was a guest. Francisco Lopez, a cowboy for the Piru Rancho, learned of the pebbles and later, while searching for stray cattle, stopped by the bank of a small stream to rest. Noting the wild onions growing where he stopped, Lopez dug some and found a few flakes of gold adhering to the roots. This was the first discovery of gold in the State of California and preceded the discovery of gold at Coloma by some six years. Miners from Sonora, Mexico, worked the find which became known as the Placerita Canyon Field. Considerable placer mining took place in the area. Francisco Lopez also found gold in a side canyon of Piru Creek.

After the discovery of gold in the Sierras most of the miners moved up into that region to mine. When the area along the foothills of the Sierra was exhausted, miners began to drift south and west to other strikes.

The Monterey County interior experienced a minor "gold rush" in the 1870's during the exodus from the northern fields. The town of Manchester was situated on a ridge between the Willow and Alder Creek drainages and served miners working placers in Willow Creek as well as the Los Burros Mining District. Manchester burned after being abandoned, and today is marked only by stone foundations and chimneys. In Willow Creek a stone wall and stamp mill equipment are evidence of mining in that drainage. The road up Willow Creek provided access to the Cruickshank (now remembered in Cruickshank Camp) and other miner's cabins in the area.

The Los Burros District was located west of Jolon and covered drainages (including its namesake) on both sides of the Santa Lucia Range. The district was originally organized in 1876 for quicksilver prospecting; in 1887 a quartz vein was discovered, a 3-stamp mill set up, and efforts focused on gold mining. According to state mining records, $150,000 worth of gold was produced by 1915, a significant amount for Monterey County. A total of more than 2,000 claims are thought to have been recorded, and mining was reported in the district as late as 1963. (90)

Gold mining in the Monterey interior also took place in some of the Lockwood Valley drainages, possibly an extension of the Los Burros District, and in isolated instances, such as the infamous, disputed claim held by "Nigger Mary." Other mining within this portion of the Forest is poorly documented or non-existant, although some references, such as the placename "Mining Ridge" are too obvious to be missed. (85)

Miners from the Sierra mines also moved south to the newly discovered strikes in Kern County. Later some drifted into northern Ventura County and began placer mining on Lockwood Creek and Piru Creek.

Placer mining began in this portion of Ventura County in the 1840's and lode mining around 1865. Activity continued until the 1890's when most of the work came to an end. In the 1920-1930 depression era men moved back into the area and did some additional placer mining. Again the mines were abandoned, and only recently, with the sharp increase in the price of gold, has the activity been renewed. Over the years several distinct districts where mining took place have been identified, including Frazier Mountain, Gold Hill, and the Lockwood Valley-Upper Piru areas.

At Leopold Flats near Lockwood Creek a large number of Chinese worked the creek bottom and side canyons until white miners in the area drove them out. Two or three miles down Lockwood Creek from the Snedden ranch, Colonel Alonzo Winfield Scott Smith selected a location for the town of Lexington, intended to serve the miners in the area. It was over 60 miles from the nearest railroad. Log cabins were constructed for some of the men and others lived in tents. An arrastra was built by the miners and quartz ore was crushed in it, but the return of gold was very small compared to the large amount of quartz that had to be crushed. In a year or so the operation was abandoned and the miners moved on.

This has been the story of most of the mines in the area. Samuel Snedden dug for gold at the Big Giant Mine when he first came into northern Ventura County. That is how he knew the country and was able to move his cattle to the Lockwood Valley when he gave up ranching in the Kern area. The Frazier and Castaic mines have long been active in the Frazier Mountain area.

Both material and non-material evidence of these mining activities in northern Ventura County remains today. Material evidence consists of a few standing, and more partially or totally destroyed, miners' cabins, such as the Baker Cabin and Miners Cabin on Frazier Mountain; scattered artifacts associated with mining or the miners' everyday life; and the mining sites themselves, sometimes shafts with timbers still in place, other times indicated only by ditches or other ground disturbance. Non-material remains abound in such placenames as Gold Hill and Arrastra Flat, and in mine names which are retained on modern maps (e.g., Gold Dust Mine, Black Bob, Maule Mine).

There was a gold rush of sorts in the Santa Ynez Valley in 1855. Mariano Lopez discovered flakes of gold in the sand of a small creek near the Santa Ynez Mission while watering his horse. Many people flocked from Santa Barbara to the discovery, but the flakes were few and far between and the excitement soon died down. (72)

The present Santa Lucia Ranger District has also been the scene of varied gold mining activity since the mid 1850's. There has been some placer gold recovered in the upper portion of Lazaro and Mine Canyons near Peach Tree Canyon on the south side of the San Rafael Mountains. Also, the homesteaders along the Sisquoc River did some placer mining at Sluice Box Camp on Horse Gulch in the 1890's, with uncertain results. (73)

Another well-known mining district was La Panza, located in San Luis Obispo County off Highway 58, on the east flank of the La Panza Range. The area also has been known to geologists and miners as the "San Juan" or "Granite Range" District. Simple placer mining was the favored method in the area, but hydraulic mining took place in a few locations. In 1878 there was a minor gold rush to La Panza; the result was the growth of a small community with a post office and saloon, primarily established by the Still family. Evidence of this community exists today at the location marked "La Panza" on modern maps, and in Still family descendants living in the area.

For awhile, Chinese workmen were hired by miners in the La Panza area; however, the non-Chinese were angered when some of the Chinese began working their own claims, and the Chinese eventually left the area. This departure was accompanied by ugly incidents involving physical abuse of the Chinese by other miners.

The earliest San Luis Obispo County Mining Claim Records for the area date to 1899, and clearly show that certain families (e.g, Alley, Case, and Gaines) had become influential forces in the La Panza community. At least two attempts were made in the 1920's to use heavy machinery for hydraulic mining in the La Panza area. One of the hydraulic miners was Burt Alley; his efforts on the "Dredger" claims in Navajo Canyon came just prior to a series of drought years and were unsuccessful.

A lode mine in the area called the King David yielded 9,700 troy ounces prior to 1896, when it closed. By 1888 the gold production was estimated at $100,000, and mining continuing through the early 1900's with some activity in the 1930's. At the present time there are 21 placer claims in the area with several operations working on the Pozo and Navajo Creeks. In the nearby Machesna Mountain area the Jehovah Jireh placer along Placer Creek averages 95 cents per cubic meter.

This discussion of the La Panza Mining District is based in part on the Cultural Resources Element of "Technical Reports in Support of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Lomex Corporation's Proposed Mineral Exploration in the Navajo Vicinity" (1982:14-15).

Barite

The White Elephant Mine in La Brea Canyon, Santa Lucia Ranger District, was first discovered and filed on as Eagle No. 1 in 1906. The location was discovered by the Jessie and Dutcher families, and Dot Webber. Extensive mining began in 1929 and continued through 1930. The road from Colson Canyon down Rattlesnake Canyon to La Brea was built by the mining company to haul out ore from La Brea Canyon to the railroad siding at Sisquoc. From there it was shipped to the California Talc Company, Los Angeles. About 4,000 tons of barite averaging 97 percent purity was shipped. The road became the main access route into the upper La Brea Canyon area and is in use at the present time by people visiting the area for recreation.

The White Elephant Mine Claims Nos. 1 and 2 were patented on December 3, 1954, and cover 28 acres. It is estimated that some 95,000 tons of barite remain on the claims and could be shipped with little work to bring the deposit into production.

Coal

In 1861 Professor William Brewer was visiting in Santa Barbara and was informed that a coal deposit had been discovered about 15 miles north of town. He arranged with the discoverer, and owner of some of the shares in the company that had been formed to develop the mine, to visit the deposit. The party set out through Montecito, turned up Romero Canyon, and followed the canyon bottom along the stream until at the head of the trail they ascended by a series of zigzags at an angle of from 30 to 40 degrees. Professor Brewer thought it was one of the worst trails he had ever been over. Descending to the Santa Ynez River, they continued up to an old cabin at the Indian ranch called Najalayegua, where they spent the night. The next day they continued up a canyon, over a ridge, and up another canyon to arrive at the mine near noon. At the time they found a few very small seams of coal in a vertical outcropping of rock. About a peck of coal was all that had been discovered. When he returned to Santa Barbara, he did not give the stockholders much hope for their project. (74)

Chromium

Also on the Santa Barbara Ranger District, there is a series of Franciscan rock outcrops along the north and south faces of Figueroa Mountain and east of Happy-Cachuma Canyons. Scattered throughout this area are various chrome claims that were first worked during World War I. From the Acachuma Los Olivos Mine about 16 tons of chrome were shipped, and from the Montinero La Laguna Ranch Prospect some 40 tons were shipped. During World War II, Harry L. Roberts, owner of the Cachuma Mining Company, sent 35 tons of ore for processing. As recently as July, 1982, the Cachuma Mining Company submitted a proposal for operations at a number of claims the company owns. An environmental assessment was prepared for the development of the claims, but up to now little or no work has been done.

A Canadian firm constructed a chrome mill During World War II in White Rock Canyon, and a small amount of production took place. The property was abandoned when the price of chrome fell after the end of the war. Another mill was constructed by Harry Roberts at Chicken Spring. It operated during the war, but also was closed and finally removed from the site.

"There is speculation that a long vein of copper ore runs a long distance through the Los Padres National Forest, from Chicken Springs running northwest across the Janeway Ranch through Happy Canyon toward the Figueroa Campground, ending near Midland School. The early claims on this vein were established below the Figueroa Mountain Campground and slightly to the east of the La Laguna and Tunnel ranches. The early prospectors found samples of green rock and malachite on the rock formations that occasionally rose above the ground. These ore samples were of relatively low grade, but because of the density of copper, there was speculation that the deeper one dug, the better the ore.

"These claims were established before 1900 in 20 acre parcels of 600 x 1500 square feet. The claimants were first, the King Mining Company, and second, the Canfield Mining Company in 1900. Currently, most of the vein is claimed, but the only work is to meet the yearly assessment requirements to maintain the claims.

"The only mined ore was taken during the "30's" when the claims were held by Henry M. Roberts. Roberts and his financial partner, Peter B. Montanaro, did extensive digging, laid rails into the tunnels and had six cars in which they brought ore to trucks which transported the loads to the old Gaviota pier located near the current oil lease. The ore was loaded onto barges and transported to Tacoma, Washington, for smelting.

"There are no records as to what the ore brought in terms of money to either Roberts or Montanaro. Neither of the families to this day knows what was paid for that small load of ore. However, problems emerged later with the Tunnell family who provided an easement in return for a percentage of the ore. Both Montanaro and Roberts passed away and Roberts' widow, Virginia, remarried. She and her husband, M. F. Frazier, currently reside in the town of Los Olivos and own six of the claims in the Cherry Creek Canyon. Frazier has done extensive study on the vein and feels his samples of malachite and azurite indicate high-grade ore deep in the earth. As he began his periodic visits to Figueroa Mountain, he ran across the Tunnell family and discovered the strong feelings toward Roberts and Montanaro. The Tunnells felt they had been cheated out of their ore percentage for using the ranch easement. Frazier learned to deal with Tunnell by bringing an occasional bottle of whiskey as he passed through. He and other members of the Roberts family cut trails through brush and did work around the claim to meet the annual $100 a year assessment requirement.

"During this time, he met a wealthy Santa Barbaran, Ralph E. Davis, who talked about purchasing the claims and developing the mines. A percentage arrangement was worked out with Frazier and then, over a large bottle of bourbon, Tunnell agreed to a similar plan for the claims in the Cherry Canyon area. However, the optimism and excitement were short-lived as a family legal dispute in the Davis family ended the agreement.

"The rock samples in the area contain the copper which is quite heavy, yet the ore is of a low grade and the costs to mine it are great. Some of the owners feel that, because of the weight of the copper, a higher grade of ore will be found deeper in the earth but it is only speculation. Apparently, little has been done to mine and process the ore; but, with an increasing value of our metal resources, the time may come when the Los Padres Forest yields another valuable treasure -- copper." (75)

Limestone

While prospecting up Indian Creek on the Santa Barbara Ranger District, Jose Moraga located a large outcropping of limestone. This is known as the Sierra Blanca Limestone and was deposited by an intruding warm water sea during the Eocene age some 60 million years before the present. Nine different claims were filed on the limestone on December 2, 1894. They were listed as being located between the Arroyo del Mono and Indo Muerto Canyon. A camp was established at what is now known as Indian Narrows Camp and a tunnel begun in the face of the cliff on the east side of Indian Creek. The tunnel is 4 feet wide, 6 feet tall and 37 feet long. Inside the tunnel is an old iron wheelbarrow and a number of other relics left over from when the tunnel was being dug. The old dump is covered with low brush and poison oak and a large scrub oak completely hides the tunnel mouth.

When samples of the Sierra Blanca limestone were taken to Los Angeles to be used in lithography, it was found that there were small flecks of quartz all through the stone, which ruined it for lithography. The owners then thought that it could be used to make cement, but finally decided that the remoteness of the outcropping made it uneconomical to attempt to transport the material to the nearest market. The present owner is negotiating with the Forest Service to return the patented claims to the public domain.

Limestone also has been mined at Pico Blanco Mountain near Big Sur; mining in this area is currently the subject of a lawsuit which alleges that further mineral activity on Pico Blanco will have unacceptable, adverse environmental impacts. Reports of mining limestone on Limekiln Creek on the southern Monterey County coast are undocumented.

Uranium

In addition to the gold mining around La Panza in the Santa Lucia Ranger District, many of the prominent early families in that area participated in a small-scale uranium exploration and mining boom there in the early 1950's. Physical remains from this period are abundant throughout the area, including many creative claim corner markers. And the potential for larger scale uranium mining in the area still exists. The Lomex Corporation of Texas did some preliminary work on a large number of low-grade uranium claims in the La Panza area in the early 1980's. After a lengthy battle between the project proponent and the public, and preparation of an extensive environmental analysis by the Forest Service which supported the proposal with restrictions, the company abandoned plans for future development of its properties.

In the 1970's the Homestake Mining Company staked a claim with plans for uranium mining above Ventura County's Lake Casitas Reservoir (Ojai Ranger District). After a lengthy battle over the proposal, the Department of the Interior formally withdrew the lands within the highly sensitive Casitas and Matilija Watersheds from mining, although the area remains open to mineral leasing.

Prospecting for uranium has also occurred in Ballinger Canyon within the Mt. Pinos Ranger District.

Magnesite

Joe Moraga and C. E. Ruiz of Santa Barbara filed a magnesite claim in the Happy Canyon area in the late 1800's. A few kidney-like bunches of float were found near the head of Happy Canyon. In Cachuma Canyon the material outcrops in thin veins, and a short tunnel, now caved in, was dug at the site.

Manganese

A small deposit of manganese ore occurs in the Franciscan formation in the San Rafael Mountains east of Los Olivos. This deposit and another described as Santa Barbara County Manganese Deposit No. 2, La Laguna Rancho, are of little apparent value.

Asphaltum, Petroleum and Gas

Natural seeps of tar, oil, and gas are common in the coastal area south of the Santa Ynez Range, and west of the San Rafael Mountains in Santa Barbara County, but none are known to occur within the boundaries of the Forest. Throughout the Forest numerous dry holes, or dusters as the oil men call them, have been drilled without success.

The first well in the Forest was drilled in 1856. Oil was first discovered in 1870 in the Ojai region. At the present time some 100 wells operate on 18 active leases.

Much more oil activity has taken place within the Ojai Ranger District of the Forest, in Ventura County, than in any other portion of the Forest. The Sespe Oil Field in that area is the oldest in California, discovered in the late 1880's. The Sespe "...spans an era of evolution in the oil industry from early cable-tool to present-day, rotary air drilling" (Dosch 1967). The first production in the Sespe Field occurred in 1887. Oil development has played an important part in the development of industry in Ventura County, but again as in Santa Barbara County, the majority of the oil producing areas are outside the Forest boundaries.

Today, Los Padres National Forest is blanketed with applications for oil and gas lease applications, but the Sespe field remains the only site of significant production activities within the Forest.

Quicksilver

A band of Franciscan formation rocks outcrops at various points from Figueroa Mountain along the south slope of the San Rafael Mountains to the north slope of the Santa Ynez Mountains, just east of Gibraltar Lake. Quicksilver ore in the form of cinnabar occurs in several locations along the northern edge of this formation. With the exception of a few scattered rich shoots of ore, most of the deposit is composed of low-grade ore which can be mined at a profit only at the time of world crises such as a war.

The earliest mention of quicksilver mining in the Forest comes from the diary of Judge Charles E. Huse, dated May 26, 1854. He notes: "Thrice showed me a piece of cinnabar which they had found in the vicinity. This is an excellent specimen." (77)

Several mines were located east of Los Prietos in the Gibralter Dam vicinity, on both sides of the Santa Ynez River. Those along the south side were first discovered and claimed by Jose Moraga, an early-day Californio, who explored a large portion of the Santa Barbara backcountry and filed a number of mining claims for different materials. A company was formed to work the deposit by Jose Moraga, Charles E. Huse, Alexander Gonzales, Thomas Sprague, Jose Lobero, and others. The company filed the No. 1 claim on the east end of the deposit. They worked the claim on and off for the next ten years. In 1874, mining stock was sold by a company formed in San Francisco and experts were sent down to examine the prospects. They returned with glowing reports of the potential of the mine and the existence of cinnabar in immense quantities. The claims were located on the Los Prietos y Najalayegua Land Grant, and a Mr. Cassell of San Francisco leased the grant with the right to develop the mines. He and the other owners of the claims finally compromised on their differences rather than engage in extended litigation. (78)

Later Mr. J. S. Cassell joined others to form a company called the Santa Ynez Mining Company with a capital stock of $1,000,000. The Los Prietos Company was organized with a capital stock of $10,000,000 and eventually absorbed the former company.

Mr. Jones became the mining superintendent, with headquarters at Los Prietos. A large amount of money was expended on developing the mines. A road was constructed from the stage road over San Marcos Pass at China Camp and up the Santa Ynez River. Trails also were opened from Santa Barbara to the mines, because in the winter when the river was in flood stage, it was impossible to reach the mines by the river road. Some 400 men were employed to make brick for the furnace, and build and open the mine. Timber for supporting the tunnels was a big problem, as none was available locally. A large brick retort and several smaller ones were constructed along the river. There was some production but in 1877 the price of quicksilver declined on the world market, and it became no longer profitable to work the Santa Barbara mines. The operation was abandoned and the buildings and equipment were allowed to go to ruin.

Not until 1916 was there any further activity on the property. At that time the mines were reopened and a small amount of production carried out. They were again shut down and not until 1933 was any further work done at the mine. From 1933 until 1939 some work was occasionally done with a few flasks of mercury being produced.

The old Gibralter Mine buildings and equipment have fallen into disrepair; the owners' descendents are engaged in legal squabbles over disposition, reopening the mine, etc.

The Lion Den Mine, also known as the Cal-Mer and including part of the old Santa Rosa property, is located at the head of Cachuma Creek. Near it is the property of the Santa Ynez Mercury Company. This mine has been known in the past as Eagle, Mercury and Red Rock. The mine was located in 1867. The property was operated off and on by the Red Rock Quicksilver Mining Company for several years. In 1932 and again in 1938 some production was made from the property. In 1937 a 30-ton mill was completed and operated until the company went into receivership. J. G. Moore subsequently operated the property until the 1960's, when Mr. Anton K. Money from Canada did quite a bit of work on the property and produced some mercury, until the price of mercury forced the closure of the mine.

The Oso Claim is east of 19 Oaks Camp on Oso Creek. Some work was done here prior to 1972, when the prospect was abandoned. Numerous pieces of old, rusting equipment remain at the campsite.

Quicksilver occurs along the serpentine outcropping in the Franciscan formation. With the present low price of mercury on the world market, it is not profitable to operate the old mines.

Stone Quarrying

Colson Quarry near the head of Colson Canyon within the Santa Lucia Ranger District is operated currently by Henry Antolini and Son. The quarry is operated to obtain "Santa Maria" stone, which is extensively used in the building construction business all over the west. Stone quarrying in this area apparently has a long, but largely undocumented, history.

Small scale quarrying has occurred at numerous other locations within the Forest in the past. In 1907 the Blue Rock Company of Los Angeles had a quarry near the Frank Angula place at the top of Refugio Pass. W.M. Tico, a teamster, hauled stones weighing from four to seven tons down the mountain to the railroad. He did all the work himself with the aid of a block and tackle. In 1906 Mr. J.M. Hogan quarried stone in Sycamore Canyon near Mountain Drive. At the same time Mayor Thomas D. Wood was making street paving of red rock found in the Santa Ynez Mountains near the city. In 1927 the Bly Stone Company of Santa Barbara was quarrying stone in Refugio Canyon to be used in the construction of the new Santa Barbara courthouse. In later years the limestone cliff exposed on the north side of the Santa Ynez Mountains at Bee Rock was quarried to face the sides of Cachuma Dam.

Phosphate Mining

In the mid-1970's the U.S. Gypsum Company made plans to extract phosphate from a 500-acre area in the Pine Mountain Region north of Ojai. The U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management prepared an environmental impact statement on the proposal. Public hearings were held and the Sierra Club and other organizations, along with numerous members of the general public, attended the hearings and registered their opposition to the development of the mining operation. Denial of the permit was decided on because of the virtually unanimous regional opposition to the proposal for strip-mining within the Forest.

The Cachuma Phosphate Corporation began strip-mining in 1969 in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains south of the town of New Cuyama. Due to the poor market and low prices the operation became uneconomical. In March of 1975 the strip mine reopened for a short period of time before again becoming unprofitable.

Ridgelite

Mineral claims were filed on deposits of Lockwood Clay along Seymour Creek in Lockwood Valley in the 1920's, and expanded with additional claims in 1955. These claims continue to be mined by the Ridgelite Products Company, which produces an expanded clay used for structural building materials. The clay is converted by rapid heating into the saleable product, commonly known as "ridgelite."

The search for mines during the Hispanic and Anglo periods has contributed to the opening of the lands which are now within Los Padres National Forest. It brought men into the area and resulted in road construction, and in a few cases wealth poured into the surrounding community. At the present time there is little mining activity in the Forest.

2.4.9 Recreation in the Forest

When the Forest Service was established, the main activities that were managed by the Forest Reserves under a "triple use" program were lumbering, grazing and mining. Little or no consideration was given to recreation. During the early years the main recreation activity was camping, and it was generally connected with either hunting or fishing. People living around the edges of the Forest would make expeditions into the mountains to hunt or fish, generally after the crops were in and they had leisure time to spend before the fall rains began.

An example of early recreation use was depicted in the Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine for November 1886-April 1887, in an article by John R.G. Hassard. This article told about a group of men and a woman who spent time camping, first on the north fork of Matilija Creek and later on top of Pine Mountain. They left Ojai and spent 68 days in the wilderness. Hassard figured that the cost of a personal outfit was $20.00, share of the general outfit was $6.43 (pots and pans, etc.), and guide, cook and stock cost $112.46 for a total of $138.89. This represented about $2.00 per day per person. He finished the article by stating: "As we lived like gourmets, and made no great effort to economize, this, we thought, was doing pretty well." (79)

In the 1890's the Santa Maria Times ran several articles about hunters visiting the Sisquoc and Manzana area and the reports of good hunting. Many of these people were friends or relatives of the homesteaders who were living in that area. In those days a family or group of friends would stake out a territory back in the San Rafael Mountains or in the Pine Mountain area of Ventura County. This spot became their private area for hunting and others stayed out of that territory. Many of the present backcountry Forest camps were established this way. Some, such as Pelch, Cottam and Forbush, are still in use, but others, including Cooper, Jesse, Dinsmore, McGuire, Libby, Doty and Baker Camps can be found only on old Forest maps. The sites are long abandoned and the camps have either weathered away or been physically removed.

When the CCC program began in the early 1930's, upgrading of these old hunting camps began. Tables and ice can stoves were placed at the camps. The CCC refurbished camps were in use up until 1940, when World War II brought about the Forest's closing. After the war, the fire closure initiated during the war was not retained in many of the areas which acted as watersheds for dams along the lower reaches of rivers. Because deer hunting season occurred during fire season, the old deer hunting camps often fell into disuse. It was decided to remove many of them, since they were not being maintained.

During the 1960's and early 1970's considerable interest in camping and backpacking developed. A large increase occurred in the use of the camping areas in the Forest. Trails that had fallen into disuse were now feeling the tread of backpackers' feet. In the period before World War II almost all of the campers in the backcountry went in by horseback, but the new visitors were hikers. Some of the older CCC camps were reconditioned, and wilderness grate stoves began to replace the old ice can stoves which the CCC had placed in the camps.

About the time of this renewed interest in camping, public concern for resource conservation was also gathering force. Many of the campers who used the backcountry developed a concern for the ecology of the region and began to fear the possibility that use by too many people would result in abuse of the fragile environment. This flowering of public awareness came decades after some individuals, agency officials and members of congress had recognized a need to maintain portions of undeveloped areas in Federal ownership in their "wild" state.

In 1929 the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture spelled out the first specific procedures by which the Chief of the Forest Service could designate Primitive Areas. These administrative regulations were further refined and strengthened in 1939. Under these regulations, the Secretary, on the recommendation of the Forest Service, could designate unbroken tracts of 1,000,000 acres or more as "Wilderness Areas." Areas of 5,000 to 100,000 acres or more were set aside as "Wild Areas" by the Chief of the Forest Service. The Nation's first designated Wilderness was the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. It included 434,000 acres and was established in 1924.

The Ventana Primitive Area within the Monterey Ranger District was established by order of Chief Forester R. Y. Stuart under the authority of Regulation L-20, which allowed the Chief of the Forest Service to designate Primitive Areas. The Ventana originally consisted of 45,520 acres and was enlarged in 1937 to about 55,884 acres.

On January 19, 1932, the San Rafael Primitive Area was created, also under the Forest Service "L" regulation. In 1937 a group under the strong leadership of Robert Easton promoted the need to protect the California Condors' use of Falls Creek Canyon, on the north side of San Rafael Mountain and south of the Sisquoc River. This area was known to be used by the condors as a resting, bathing, and possibly nesting site. The sanctuary eventually established contained 1,200 acres. Entry into the reserve is allowed only under permit from the Forest Supervisor. It is ironic that shortly after the area was set aside, the condors using the area shifted to an area north of Fillmore and took up residence there. Now only occasional use for bathing is reported in the Sisquoc Condor Sanctuary.

Not until after passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964 by Congress were the San Rafael and Ventana Primitive Areas formally reserved as wilderness areas by law, rather than by a Forest Service regulation subject to change at will. The Wilderness Act established a set of governmental procedures for designating and managing units of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Forest Service was given its guidelines by the Secretary of Agriculture on June 1, 1966, when he issued regulations on the operations of the National Forest units of the National Wilderness Preservation System under its charge.

Immediately after passage of the Wilderness Act, numerous people and organizations began studying the San Rafael Primitive Area with the goal of obtaining wilderness designation for the area. The local Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and many others organized campaigns among their members to lobby for legislation to set the area aside as Wilderness. Joy Parkinson, president of the Audubon Society, Robert Easton, a local writer and conservationist, and Dick Smith, local newspaper writer, were among the many local people who attended numerous meetings with the Forest Service to iron out boundary locations and other problems.

For reasons primarily related to fire suppression and fuels management, the Forest Service did not wish the wilderness to cross the Buckhorn Road on Big Pine Mountain or encompass the Sierra Madre Ridge Road. In something of a compromise solution, the Chief of the Forest Service pledged that if the Sierra Madre Ridge remained outside the San Rafael Wilderness, the Forest Service would maintain and use the ridge road only for essential administrative purposes. Protection of the sensitive rock art sites on the ridge was specifically mentioned during congressional hearings on this matter, with the Forest Service promising to provide needed protective measures.

The bill to create the San Rafael Wilderness was brought up in the Senate on March 8, 1968. Mr. Jackson stated: "It is my considered judgment that this bill will some day be regarded as landmark conservation legislation. It is the first proposal to be enacted to add an additional wilderness area to the Wilderness System adopted in 1964." (80)

The San Rafael Wilderness area comprises 148,170 acres of the Forest and is located approximately 12 miles north of Santa Barbara. It has proven to be a haven for backpacking enthusiasts.

On August 18, 1969, the Ventana Wilderness Area was established. The Ventana includes 164,554 acres of primarily very rugged terrain within the Santa Lucia Mountains of the Monterey Ranger District. The high use within this area is attributed to the fact that the Ventana roughly parallels the Big Sur coastline and offers superlative views from the crest of the Santa Lucia Range.

The third designated wilderness area within the Forest was the Santa Lucia in San Luis Obispo County. It is located within the Santa Lucia Ranger District and was established as a result of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978. It consists of 21,678 acres and ranges in elevation from 800 feet along Lopez Creek to 3,000 feet near Hi Mountain. Lopez Creek, which flows through the wilderness, provides a constant supply of water to Lopez Lake.

On August 6, 1984, another wilderness bill involving lands in California was passed after considerable study and compromise. The "California Wilderness Act of 1984" proposed that "...certain lands in the Los Padres National Forest, which comprise approximately two thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'San Rafael Wilderness Additions--Proposed,' and which are hereby incorporated in, and which shall be deemed to be a part of the San Rafael Wilderness as designated by Public Law 90-271." (81) This addition adds land on the southwest side of Manzana Creek to the existing wilderness. This is the first addition to the Wilderness since it was created.

The California Wilderness Act of 1984 also established two new wilderness areas, and added 2,750 acres to the Ventana Wilderness within the Monterey Ranger District. In San Luis Obispo County the Machesna Mountain Wilderness was created. It consists of approximately 20,000 acres, and is located in the La Panza Mountain range within the Santa Lucia Ranger District.

The Dick Smith Wilderness is the second wilderness area created by the 1984 Act. When the San Rafael Wilderness was established in 1968 it was decreed that there would be a new route constructed for the Buckhorn road around the south and east sides of Big Pine Mountain to locate it outside of the San Rafael Wilderness. In 1972 Don Vaughan took a group of five Sierra Club members up to look at the proposed route for the new road. It was decided that the new routing of the road would create numerous problems and solve nothing, but while hiking out on Madulce the thought was brought up that possibly a Madulce Wilderness could be created with the Buckhorn Road as an administrative corridor between the wildernesses.

In 1973 the Forest Service embarked on a review and evaluation of all roadless areas--RARE I. Little was done with this study and in 1977 a new review and evaluation was carried out under RARE II. In the spring of 1978 a preliminary proposal for about 70,000 acres of new wilderness within the Los Padres was made. The area encompassed by the proposed wilderness ran west to east from Big Pine Mountain to Highway 33 in Ventura County. On the south it extended almost to the Santa Ynez River. A coalition of the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Citizens Committee for Wilderness, and later the Friends of Dick Smith put forth efforts promoting and supporting this wilderness proposal. The Forest Service had some reservations about the proposed boundaries, so after a meeting between the Agency and the coalition, a compromise boundary was agreed upon. It was then that the name, "Dick Smith Wilderness," was suggested in honor of the man who had been so active in the campaign to create the San Rafael Wilderness and had devoted much time and energy to studying the California Condor. The bill was passed twice in the House of Representatives, only to be stopped in the Senate.

The Dick Smith Wilderness contains 64,700 acres and is located in the Santa Barbara and Mt. Pinos Ranger Districts. It is situated some 12 miles northeast of Santa Barbara. Within its boundaries are the Indian, Mono, Alamar and Santa Barbara Canyons. The area ranges in elevation from 3,750 to 6,541 feet at its highest point atop Madulce Peak. The vegetation consists primarily of chaparral with pine forests on the higher elevations. Several important cultural sites are found within its boundaries. The Madulce Guard Station, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Mono-Santa Barbara Canyon Indian Trail, used to travel from Santa Barbara's coastal region to the central valley of California, are but two of these sites. Some 7,680 acres of the area are condor critical habitat.

Many of the trails and campsites in the area are in very poor condition, but with the increased publicity about the area, considerably more use will be made by the backpacking public, and hopefully the conditions of the facilities in the Wilderness will soon be greatly improved to protect the environment.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 states, "A Wilderness, in contrast with those areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, is an area where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The wilderness experience is one which allows physical as well as psychological escape from the mechanized urban confusion of the modern world. Man needs wilderness areas where he can rekindle his spirit and endure temporarily the hardships of the wilderness existence. This has been made available to him through the establishment of five wildernesses within the boundaries of Los Padres National Forest.

However, the segment of the population which seeks out and supports the wilderness experience is surpassed in actual use counts by those who prefer vehicle-related recreation. The shift to vehicle-access activities was gradual in some places, but constituted a virtual explosion in others. A good example of the latter was the flood of persons visiting the wave-cut terraces of the southern Monterey coast beginning in the early 1960's, following the Forest Service acquisition of that coastal property. Heavy use of drive-in campgrounds throughout the Forest attest to the popularity of "car-camping", and many others enjoy the scenery without ever leaving their cars. The Forest Service and other land management agencies face a challenge in balancing the two contrasting types of recreation use.

2.4.10 Archeological Research and Management of Cultural Properties

The Forest contains cultural resources that represent use during the proto-historic and historic period by the Chumash, Esselen and. Salinan Indians, people and events of the Hispanic period, American homesteaders, and federal land management agencies. Most cultural sites within the Forest boundaries are well-preserved due to difficult access, relatively low visitation and public education.

The Forest has long been the site of sporadic anthropological research through archeology. This research began with recreational, and in some cases mercenary, excavations by individuals such as Dr. Stephen Bowers in the 1870's. In the 1930's the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History acted on long-time reports of painted rock art in the Santa Barbara backcountry and sponsored an expedition into the Hurricane Deck area of the San Rafael Mountains. The results were manuscripts by museum archeologist D.B. Rogers and his field representative Milton Snow, describing and locating (although poorly) the numerous rock art sites in the area. A final notable instance of early archeology was associated with excavations by the Smithsonian Institution at Buena Vista Lake in the 1940's. Archeologist William Duncan Strong spent many happy weekends in the nearby Sierra Madre Mountains (as well as in other parts of the Cuyama Valley) locating and removing artifacts, particularly basketry, from cave sites and doing test excavations at a few Chumash village sites within the Forest.

The history of archeological research within the Forest's main division is thoroughly reviewed in a dissertation by Stephen P. Horne, former Los Padres Forest Archeologist (The Inland Chumash: Ethnography, Ethnohistory, and Archeology: 1981). (82). An overview of research within the Esselen area (Monterey Ranger District) is included in a masters thesis by Joan Brandoff-Kerr, former Monterey Ranger District Archeologist (Prehistoric Land Use in the Santa Lucia Mountains: An Overview of the Esselen and their Settlement Strategy 1982).

Although there have been numerous instances of archeological research by both avocational and professional archeologists since Strong's work, the efforts have been relatively few given the tremendous research potential of the Forest. In particular, the possibility for further research which could lead to a better understanding of the Hispanic period and its relationship to the demise of aboriginal cultures in California may not exist in other areas.

Vandalism of cultural resources is a problem in the Forest. An extensive and comprehensive educational program to explain the cultural history of the Forest and its significance to our understanding of history will hopefully help in the future to protect these valuable resources.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Patterns of Land Use

Historical data show that some patterns of land use within the Forest have remained virtually the same throughout the historic era, while others have changed substantially. Most of the trends have been recognized over the years by Forest managers and local residents with an interest in the historical development of Forest Service policies and their application to the Los Padres. Many are common to other National Forests and sometimes to other land management agencies throughout the United States. This overview does not provide any new revelations about patterns of land use, but it does serve to emphasize the import of certain changes and the reasons changes have or have not occurred.

3.1.1 Continuing Uses

In at least two areas of use, mining and grazing, historical patterns have resisted change.

In 1790, a party sent out by Goycochea to search for Indian neophytes who had escaped from Mission Santa Barbara engaged in a little mineral exploration on the side; the same sort of penny-ante mining is widespread over the Forest today. The large companies interested in oil and gas development or commercial mining of the few valuable mineral deposits found within the Forest are heavily regulated and operate in a manner tightly controlled with regard to protection of the environment. But the small-scale activities of both serious and recreational "miners" are relatively uncontrolled. They represent a continuation of policies based on laws designed to protect the public's right to explore for and develop minerals on public lands.

Plans for widespread oil and gas leasing, and the potential for significant amounts of development and production in some areas, will no doubt increase the administrative burden of the Forest. However, the controlled effects of these activities, with avoidance or mitigation of adverse impacts a standard part of each project, may be easier to manage than those related to small-scale mining. Reports of entire families going on mining "vacations" are not unheard of, and these recreationists may be causing subtle environmental changes. The pattern of small-scale mining is unlikely to change, and participants will continue to seek recreation or pursue dreams of riches in the Forest's streams and canyons.

Grazing within the Forest has its roots in the Mexican land grant ranchos and in the homestead period. Throughout most of the historic era, the grasslands of the Los Padres have provided a relatively inexpensive way to expand the grazing range for ranches adjacent to or sometimes within the Forest boundaries. In the early years after the Forest Reserves were established, the Forest promoted policies which had substantial effects on the ranchers' use of public lands for grazing. Forest managers put a stop to the popular practice of intentional burning in the fall to clear lands for pasture and encourage grass growth. The Forest also restricted grazing to numbers compatible with an established carrying capacity, thus cutting down on rampant overgrazing of the land, and also cutting the size of the herds ranchers could maintain.

Once such initial sideboards were accepted, ranchers and Forest managers embarked on a policy of permitted grazing, with modest fees charged for use of Forest land. This policy has survived to the present among agencies involved in management of public land and has thus far resisted attempts to raise fees by those who feel that the government is not obtaining fair market value for use of the land.

In one area, recreation, the use of the Forest has been constant, but the types of activities pursued have changed. This change is discussed in the following section.

3.1.2 Changing Uses

In several areas, the historic pattern of Forest use has changed or is changing.

Use of the Forest for recreation purposes has occurred throughout historic times, although the abundance of references to recreational trips in the early American period reflects an escalation of activities during that era (as well as the emergence of the newsprint media). The early recreationists went on pack trips, hunted, fished, and simply enjoyed the scenary from the back of a horse. Over the years a shift in emphasis has occurred, and the majority of today's Forest users prefer vehicle-related activities, such as car-camping, day-hiking, or "driving for pleasure." However, many visitors still engage in activities that involve solitude and removal from the ordinary experience. Thus, recreation users of the Los Padres embody elements of the traditional as well as the "modern" Forest user.

The need to balance the two types of recreation use represents one of the biggest challenges facing Los Padres management today. This is particularly true in these times of a declining budget, when hard decisions must be made regarding the allocation of fewer dollars than were available in years immediately previous. One solution that has been advanced over the years is implementation of recreation user fees; however, the per person cost of maintaining the developed and remote recreation experiences is hardly comparable, and user fees may not help create the desired balance.

A second area in which patterns of use have changed markedly is transportation. Travel was the most important non-Indian use of the Forest from the time of the Spanish explorers until the land grant era. Compared to the coast or valleys, the interior was not particularly hospitable, but it was often necessary to travel through the Forest to accomplish a given task or reach another destination. Forested lands provided travel corriders for the Indians, the Spanish and the Mexicans.

The development of major highways around the Forest, and eventually Interstate Highways 101 and 5, changed the focus of travel. Rather than passing through the Forest to reach a destination elsewhere, the majority of today's travelers within the Forest have reached their destination (one exception is use of Hwy. 154, which receives large amounts of commuter traffic between Santa Barbara-Goleta and the Buellton-Santa Maria areas). The primary goal of travel within the Forest today (other than vehicle use for administrative purposes) is recreation.

Perhaps the most significant change in management policy has been the gradual shift away from the heavy fire suppression program of the early 1900's. The Los Padres was established with watershed protection as the major management objective, and wildfire suppression was seen as the primary tool for accomplishing that objective. Over the years, the weight of evidence and opinion has shifted to a philosophy which recognizes fire's natural role in watershed management and promotes use of cool, prescribed burning to replicate the natural fire cycle. The result is an emphasis on a fuels management program which fosters a more holistic approach to watershed protection.

3.2 Effects on Contemporary Forest Management

The effects of historical patterns of land use on contemporary Forest management are many. This section does not attempt to list even the majority of those impacts. However, several episodes in Forest history cropped up more than once in preparing this overview, and those deserve special mention because of their obvious effects on current management.

Homestead and patented mining claims have shaped the current pattern of private holdings within the Forest boundaries (inholdings), creating a mosaic that has myriad effects on Forest management. The presence of these non-Forest affiliated uses are not characterized here as good or bad, but they have certainly increased the Forest's administrative load. The effects can be seen especially in the landline location, land acquisition and rights-of-way programs. Also, and perhaps more important in the long run, decisions concerning Forest sponsored or permitted activities must consider the potential effects on these inholdings and thus on any residents living on private lands within the Forest.

In one case, the potential effects of homesteads on the Forest were not realized at least in part due to an even older land allocation system, the Mexican land grants. This is, of course, the case of the Rancho Sisquoc and the Sisquoc/Manzana homestead district. By blocking access through ranch property to the homesteads, the ranch owners put a final nail in the homestead coffins and helped shape the western boundary of the San Rafael Wilderness. Today, the San Rafael includes popular hiking trails along the Sisquoc River and Manzana Creek which might not be a part of the Wilderness area if the homestead district had survived.

The 1957 Forest Service-U. S. Army interchange of lands in southern Monterey County has directly influenced land use in that area. The Forest Service acquired prime recreation land at the southern end of the Big Sur Coast while giving up land on the interior side of the Santa Lucia Range. As a result, the coastal area is now part of a recreation area of national importance. Had the area been in private ownership, its character would no doubt be very different today; the same would be true had military management continued.

The strong historical pattern associated with grazing in the Forest continues to affect Forest management and the fee schedule for grazing permits. The draft Forest Land Management Plan (Sections 3.17 and 4.17, in preparation) recognizes the importance of grazing allotments to the small, economically-dependent ranches within or adjacent to the Forest and the potentially disastrous effects for the ranchers and the small ranch lifestyle should the allotment system be substantially modified.

3.3 Data Gaps

A number of gaps in the existing information were identified during preparation of this overview. Most are fields which lend themselves to thematic studies. Each is appropriate for further study, either because of

- its potential for providing information of importance in understanding the history of growth and development of the Forest and, consequently, the future course of Forest management

or,

- its potential for providing information related to the study of historic archeological sites or structures.

The following themes should be further researched and documented in amendments to this overview or separate thematic studies.

1) The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era, which is important for increased understanding of past management decisions as well as the significance of CCC-related archeological sites or structures.

2) The western Santa Ynez Range homesteads, which were so numerous on both northern and southern sides of the range that their pattern dictated the location of Forest boundaries in that area.

3) The names and locations of early Ranger District headquarters and other early administrative sites; this has particular import for assessing the significance of certain administrative structures in light of current studies of administrative site needs (the Administrative Sites Needs Assessment Process, or ASNAP).

4) Early Recreation Residences, especially clusters of residences, which may date from the earliest days of the National Forests and were encouraged at first as a means of increasing recreation use of the forests; such a study is needed particularly in light of the current policy against renewing long-term recreation residence permits.

The above is by no means an exhaustive list. This overview is intended to provide a baseline document which will make identification of additional data needs easier and support data acquisition as a continuing part of the Forest's planning process.

3.4 Application of Past Lessons to Forest Planning

Unfortunately, the preparation of a historical overview in itself does not embody the analysis necessary to apply history's lessons to future management. In that sense, this document fails to fully achieve one of the intial objectives, that of providing a "...general assessment of changes in land use and land use management that could be useful in planning future management." However, several instances can be cited in which the overview supports the analysis of environmental effects of proposed management alternatives found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Forest Land Management Plan. These are in the areas of

- the historical pattern of grazing within the Forest and the potential effects of changes in that pattern on small, economically-dependent ranches and the lifestyle associated with such ranches

- the gradual change in the philosophy associated with fire management, seen in the fact that the proposed prescribed burning program drives other resource management activities in most alternatives (including the preferred alternative) considered in the Forest Plan

- the shift in recreation use to a majority preference for vehicle-related activities, and the need to balance recreation management between such uses ("developed site recreation") and the continuing desire for a more primitive experience by other users.

In addition, there are immediate, technical applications of the overview's information, some of which were evident before the document was completed. (The case in point being identification and location of an historic structure of importance to the Forest Cadastral Surveyor because of an earlier surveyor's "call" to one of the building's corners). Such specific uses of the data are expected to occur frequently in the future.

Finally, this overview should give current and future generations of Los Padres users a sense of the rich heritage of the Forest and an enhanced understanding of the fact that no public land management agency operates only within its administrative boundaries.

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APPENDIX A: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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